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INVENTION: CRYSTALLINE SUPERFINE PARTICLES, COMPLEX MATERIAL,
METHOD OF MANUFACTURING CRYSTALLINE SUPERFINE
PARTICLES, INVERTED MICELLES, INVERTED MICELLES
ENVELOPING PRECURSOR SUPERFINE PARTICLES, INVERTED
MICELLES ENVELOPING CRYSTALLINE SUPERFINE PARTICLES,
AND PRECURSOR SUPERFINE PARTICLES

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Sir:

CERTIFIED TRANSLATION

Kyoko TODA residing at c/o SUGIURA PATENT OFFICE,
7th floor, Ikebukuro Park Bldg., 49-7, Minami Ikebukuro
2-chome, Toshima-ku, Tokyo, JAPAN, declares:

- (1) that she knows well both the Japanese and English languages;
- (2) that she translated Japanese Application No.2002-319480
from Japanese to English;
- (3) that the attached English translation is a true
and correct translation of the above-identified Japanese
Application to the best of her knowledge and belief; and
- (4) that all statements made of her own knowledge
are true and that all statements made on information and
belief are believed to be true, and further that these
statements are made with the knowledge that willful false
statements and the like are punishable by fine or
imprisonment, or both, under 18 USC 1001, and that such
false statements may jeopardize the validity of the
application or any patent issuing thereon.

26.1. 2006

Date

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[Title of document] Specification

[Title of the Invention] CRYSTALLINE SUPERFINE
PARTICLES, COMPLEX MATERIAL, METHOD OF MANUFACTURING
CRYSTALLINE SUPERFINE PARTICLES, INVERTED MICELLES,
5 INVERTED MICELLES ENVELOPING PRECURSOR SUPERFINE
PARTICLES, INVERTED MICELLES ENVELOPING CRYSTALLINE
SUPERFINE PARTICLES, AND PRECURSOR SUPERFINE PARTICLES
[Scope of Claims for a Patent]

[Claim 1]

10 A crystalline superfine particle
characterized in having a grain size in the range from
5 nm to 100 nm and emitting light depending upon the
time-rate-of-change of a stress applied thereto.

[Claim 2]

15 The crystalline superfine particle according
to claim 1 wherein the surface thereof is covered by
organic molecules.

[Claim 3]

20 The crystalline superfine particle according
to claim 2 wherein the organic molecules are surfactant
having hydrophilic groups and hydrophobic groups.

[Claim 4]

25 The crystalline superfine particle according
to claim 1 wherein the crystalline superfine particle
has a composition expressed by the general formula

$A_xB_yO_z$

where $0.8 \leq x \leq 1.1$

$$1.8 \leq y \leq 2.2$$

$$\{(2x+3y)/2\} - 0.2 < z < \{(2x+3y)/2\} + 0.2$$

$$A = \text{Sr}_k \text{Ba}_l \text{Ca}_m \text{Mg}_n$$

$$(0 \leq k, l, m, n \leq 1, k+l+m+n=1)$$

$$B = \text{Al}_{1-p} \text{D}_p \quad (0 \leq p < 1)$$

$$D = \text{Y}_q \text{Ga}_r \text{In}_t \quad (0 \leq q, r, t \leq 1, q+r+t=1)$$

[Claim 5]

The crystalline superfine particle according to claim 1 wherein a rare earth element or a transition metal element is added by 0.2 mol or less in total relative to 1 mol of $\text{A}_x \text{B}_y \text{O}_z$.

[Claim 6]

The crystalline superfine particle according to claim 5 wherein at least Eu is added as the rare earth element or the transition metal element.

[Claim 7]

A complex material composed of crystalline superfine particles having a grain size in the range from 5 nm to 100 nm and another material, and emitting light depending upon the time-rate-of-change of a stress applied thereto.

[Claim 8]

The complex material according to claim 7 wherein the other material is a transparent material.

[Claim 9]

The complex material according to claim 7 wherein the other material is a resin.

[Claim 10]

The complex material according to claim 9 wherein the resin is a photo-curing resin.

[Claim 11]

5 The complex material according to claim 7 wherein the other material is glass.

[Claim 12]

The complex material according to claim 7 wherein the other material is a liquid.

10 [Claim 13]

The complex material according to claim 7 wherein the crystalline superfine particles discretely disperse in the other material.

[Claim 14]

15 The complex material according to claim 7 wherein, even when the crystalline superfine particles dispersed in the other material form aggregates, maximum size of each aggregate is 100 nm.

[Claim 15]

20 The complex material according to claim 7, which emits light when manually touched or bent.

[Claim 16]

25 A method of manufacturing a crystalline superfine particle which emits light depending upon the time-rate-of-change of a stress applied thereto, comprising:

forming a substance in which metal ions of a

metal for forming the crystalline superfine particle
dissolves in water contained in a molecular aggregate
which orient hydrophilic groups of surfactant molecules
inward and hydrophobic groups thereof outward in a
nonpolar solvent.

[Claim 17]

The method according to claim 16 wherein the
crystalline superfine particles has a grain size in the
range from 5 nm to 100 nm.

[Claim 18]

The method according to claim 16 wherein
concentration of the metal ions relative to the water
contained in the molecular aggregate is 10 mol/l or
less.

[Claim 19]

The method according to claim 16 wherein the
crystalline superfine particle has a composition
expressed by the general formula $A_xB_yO_z$
where $0.8 \leq x \leq 1.1$

$1.8 \leq y \leq 2.2$

$\{(2x+3y)/2\}-0.2 < z < \{(2x+3y)/2\}+0.2$

$A = Sr_kBa_lCa_mMg_n$

$(0 \leq k, l, m, n \leq 1, k+l+m+n=1)$

$B = Al_{1-p}D_p \quad (0 \leq p < 1)$

$D = Y_qGa_rIn_t \quad (0 \leq q, r, t \leq 1, q+r+t=1),$

wherein the metal ions in the water contained
in the molecular aggregate are ions of alkaline earth

metal used as the component A and ions of a metal used as the component B in the general formula, and

wherein the ratio of the ions of the alkaline earth metal as the component A relative to the ions of the metal as the component B is in the range from 0.1 to 0.5.

[Claim 20]

The method according to claim 19 wherein the water contained in the molecular aggregate contains 0.2 mol or less in total of a rare earth element or a transition metal element relative to 1 mol of ions of the alkaline earth metal as the component A in the general formula.

[Claim 21]

The method according to claim 20 wherein at least Eu is contained as the rare earth element or the transition metal element.

[Claim 22]

A method of manufacturing a crystalline superfine particle which emits light depending upon the time-rate-of-change of a stress applied thereto, comprising:

forming a substance in which metal ions of a metal for forming a precursor superfine particle of the crystalline superfine particle dissolves in water contained in a molecular aggregate which orient hydrophilic groups of surfactant molecules inward and

hydrophobic groups thereof outward in a nonpolar solvent.

[Claim 23]

5 The method according to claim 22 wherein the crystalline superfine particles has a grain size in the range from 5 nm to 100 nm.

[Claim 24]

10 A method of manufacturing a crystalline superfine particle which emits light depending upon the time-rate-of-change of a stress applied thereto, comprising:

15 forming a substance in which the crystalline superfine particle is contained in water which is contained in a molecular aggregate orienting hydrophilic groups of surfactant molecules inward and hydrophobic groups thereof outward in a nonpolar solvent.

[Claim 25]

20 The method according to claim 24 wherein the crystalline superfine particles has a grain size in the range from 5 nm to 100 nm.

[Claim 26]

25 An inverted micelle to be used for manufacturing a crystalline superfine particle which emits light depending upon the time-rate-of-change of a stress applied thereto, characterized in containing metal ions of a metal for forming the crystalline

superfine particle in water contained in a molecular aggregate which orients hydrophilic groups of surfactant molecules inward and hydrophobic groups thereof outward in a nonpolar solvent.

5 [Claim 27]

An inverted micelle enveloping a precursor superfine particle, which is used to manufacture a crystalline superfine particle which emits light depending upon the time-rate-of-change of a stress applied thereto, characterized in containing a precursor superfine particle in water contained in a molecular aggregate which orients hydrophilic groups of surfactant molecules inward and hydrophobic groups thereof outward in a nonpolar solvent.

15 [Claim 28]

An inverted micelle enveloping a crystalline superfine particle, which is used for manufacturing a crystalline superfine particle which emits light depending upon the time-rate-of-change of a stress applied thereto, characterized in containing the crystalline superfine particle in water contained in a molecular aggregate which orients hydrophilic groups of surfactant molecules inward and hydrophobic groups thereof outward in a nonpolar solvent.

25 [Claim 29]

A precursor superfine particle to be used for manufacturing a crystalline superfine particle which

emits light depending upon the time-rate-of-change of a stress applied thereto, characterized in changing to the crystalline superfine particle when crystallized.

[Claim 30]

5 A complex material comprising:
 inverted micelles to be used for
manufacturing crystalline fine particles which emit
light depending upon the time-rate-of-change of a
stress applied thereto, in which molecular aggregates
10 each orienting hydrophilic groups of surfactant
 molecules inward and hydrophobic groups thereof outward
 in a nonpolar solvent, and each contain water in which
 metal ions of a metal for forming the crystalline
 superfine particles are dissolved; and
15 another material complexed with the inverted
 micelles.

[Claim 31]

 A complex material comprising:
 inverted micelles enveloping precursor
20 superfine particles to be used for manufacturing
 crystalline fine particles which emit light depending
 upon the time-rate-of-change of a stress applied
 thereto, in which molecular aggregates each orienting
 hydrophilic groups of surfactant molecules inward and
25 hydrophobic groups thereof outward in a nonpolar
 solvent, and each contain water in which the precursor
 superfine particle is enveloped; and

another material complexed with the inverted micelles.

[Claim 32]

A complex material comprising:

5 inverted micelles enveloping crystalline superfine particles to be used for manufacturing crystalline fine particles which emit light depending upon the time-rate-of-change of a stress applied thereto, in which molecular aggregates each orienting
10 hydrophilic groups of surfactant molecules inward and hydrophobic groups thereof outward in a nonpolar solvent, and each contain water in which the crystalline superfine particle is enveloped; and
15 another material complexed with the inverted micelles.

[Claim 33]

A complex material comprising:

precursor superfine particles used to manufacture crystalline superfine particles which emit
20 light depending upon the time-rate-of-change of a stress applied thereto, and changeable to the crystalline superfine particles when crystallized; and another material complexed with the inverted micelles.

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

25 [0001]

[Technical Field to which the Invention belongs]

The present invention relates to crystalline

superfine particles, complex material, method of
manufacturing crystalline superfine particles, inverted
micelles, inverted micelles enveloping precursor
superfine particles, inverted micelles enveloping
5 crystalline superfine particles and precursor superfine
particles that are suitable for use in manufacture of a
complex material used in, for example, the field of
entertainment, the field of amusement or the field of
optics.

10 [0002]

[Prior Art]

For years, aluminate compound materials doped
with rare earth elements have been remarked as
fluorescent materials, and have been under vigorous
15 researches. Among various aluminate compound
materials, Eu-doped SrAl_2O_4 (written as $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4:\text{Eu}$
herein below) has attracted the greatest attention as
from a report on the phenomenon of stress emission as
introduced later. Thus, prehistory of researches and
20 developments of this $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4:\text{Eu}$ is first explained
below while citing prior art documents.

[0003]

History of patents and researches of
 $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4:\text{Eu}$ as fluorescent material

25 $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4:\text{Eu}$ has the prehistory of having been
studied as a fluorescent material from a long time ago.
The following patent on this material issued already in

the 1960s, and the material is currently one of known materials.

[Patent Document 1]

Specification of U.S. Patent No. 3294699

[0004]

History of inventions and researches of
phosphorescent material/long-afterglow phosphor
SrAl₂O₄:Eu+Dy (under the brand of "LumiNova") by Nemoto
& Co., Ltd.

There are many reports and commentaries on this phosphor (for example, Non-Patent Documents 1 to 9, Patent Documents 2 to 4).

[Non-Patent Document 1]

<URL:http://www.nemoto.co.jp/index_j.html>

accessed through the Internet on August 30, 2002

[Non-Patent Document 2]

<URL:<http://www.nemoto.co.jp/products/luminova/index.html>>

accessed through the Internet on

August 30, 2002

[Non-Patent Document 3]

<URL:http://www.nemoto.co.jp/product/01_luminova/index.html>

accessed through the Internet on

August 30, 2002

[Non-Patent Document 4]

<URL:http://www.nemoto.co.jp/column/10_glow.html>

accessed through the Internet on August 30,

2002

[Patent Document 2]

Specification of Japanese Patent No. 2543825

[Patent Document 3]

Specification of U.S. Patent No. 5,424,006

5 [Patent Document 4]

Specification of European Patent No. 622440

[Non-patent Document 5]

T. Matsuzawa, N. Takeuchi, Y. Aoki and Y.

10 Murakami, 248th Lecture Papers of Phosphor

Research Society "Proc. Phosphor Res. Soc."

(1993.11.26) 7-13

[Non-patent Document 6]

Yoshihiko Murakami, Nikkei Science, 5(1996) 20-

29

15 [Non-patent Document 7]

T. Matsuzawa, Y. Aoki, T. Takeuchi and Y.

Murayama, J. Electrochem. Soc., 143(1996) 2670-

2673

[Non-patent Document 8]

20 Y. Murakami, Ceramics, 32(1997) 40-43

[Non-patent Document 9]

Y. Murakami, Hakaru, 42(1997) 2-7

[0005]

25 Discovery of stress emission in $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4\text{:Eu}$
compound materials by C-N. Xu, et al. of National
Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology
(AIST), Institute for Structural and Engineering

Materials (ISEM), Multifunctional Materials Technology
Group (former, MITI Institute for Industrial
Technology, Kyushu Institute for Industry and
Technology, Laboratory for Inorganic Complex Materials
5 and Functional Ceramics) as well as history of related
patents and researches

There are many commentaries and reports on
the stress emission $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4:\text{Eu}$ compound materials and
related substances (for example, Non-patent Documents
10 10-17 and Patent Documents 5-19). Patent Document 5
discloses materials that contain 0.01~20 weight percent
of rare earths or transition metals and emit light with
external mechanical energy received by a wurtzite type
piezoelectric material. Patent Document 6 discloses
15 thin films of these materials. Patent Document 7
discloses materials that contain transition elements or
rare earth elements having electron shells of 3d, 4d,
5d and 4f added to MgAl_2O_4 , CaAl_2O_4 , Al_2O_3 and $\text{SrMgAl}_{10}\text{O}_{17}$
as their matrices and emit light upon deformation with
20 a mechanical external force, as well as a manufacturing
method thereof. Patent Document 8 discloses materials
that are made of substances containing transition
elements or rare earth elements having electron shells
of 3d, 4d, 5d and 4f as emission center ions and added
25 to matrix crystals of metal oxides/complex oxides, and
emit light by mechanical deformation. Patent Document
9 discloses materials containing transition elements or

rare earths added to matrix materials of $\text{Sr}_3\text{Al}_2\text{O}_6$ and $\text{Ga}_3\text{Al}_2\text{O}_6$, as well as a manufacturing method thereof by baking under a controlled amount of the additive substance in 0.01~20 weight percent in a reducing atmosphere adjusted to 800~1700°C. Patent Document 10 discloses materials containing rare earths or transition metal elements as emission centers added to matrix materials of Y-Ba-Mg-Si oxides, which convert external mechanical energy to light. Document 11 describes materials that contain regulated aluminate having a non-stoichiometrical composition and emit light under mechanical energy. Document 12 describes $\text{mMO} \cdot \text{nAl}_2\text{O}_3$ materials as phosphorus memory excited by visible light. Patent Document 13 discloses a system for measuring the stress profile by using a stress emission material. Patent Document 14 discloses materials that contain oxides having a melilite type crystal structure (such as CaYAl_3O_7 , $\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}_2\text{SiO}_7$ or the like) as their matrices and emit light under mechanical energy. Patent Document 15 discloses materials MN_2O_4 , where M=Mg, Sr, Ba or Zn, N=Ga or Al, doped with rare earths or transition metals as their emission centers, together with a manufacturing method thereof. Patent Document 16 describes field emission materials composed of aluminate as their matrices and doped rare earths or transition elements. Patent Document 17 discloses electrostriction materials of (Sr, Ba, Mg, Ca, Zn, Cd)-

(Al, Ga, Si) oxides having the maximum distortion of 1%. This is a considerably large value. Patent Document 18 discloses piezoelectric materials as triboluminescent materials. Document 19 mainly describes $\text{Sr}_3\text{Al}_3\text{O}_6$ as stress emission materials, and this document corresponds to Patent Document 9.

[Non-patent Document 10]

C-N. Xu, AIST Today, vol. 2, No. 8 (2002)

[Non-patent Document 11]

<URL:http://www.aist.go.jp/aist_j/aistinfo/aist_today/vol02_08/vol02_80_main.html> accessed through the Internet on August 30, 2002

[Non-patent Document 12]

<URL:http://www.aist.go.jp/aist_j/aistinfo/aist_today/vol02_08/vol02_08_pl3.pdf> accessed through the Internet on August 30, 2002

[Non-patent Document 13]

C-N. Xu, T. Watanabe, M. Akiyama and X-G. Zheng, Appl. Phys. Lett., 74(1999) 1236-1238

[Non-patent Document 14]

C-N. Xu, T. Watanabe, M. Akiyama and X-G. Zheng, Appl. Phys. Lett., 74(1999) 2414-2416

[Non-patent Document 15]

C-N. Xu, X-G. Zheng, M. Akiyama, K. Nonaka and T. Watanabe, Appl. Phys. Lett., 76(2000) 179-181

[Non-patent Document 16]

C-N. Xu, Kagaku Kogyo (October 2000) pp. 790-794 & 808

[Non-patent Document 17]

C-N. Xu, Gekkan Display, September (2001) 98-103

5 [Patent Document 5]

Japanese Laid-open Publication JP-H11-116946-A

[Patent Document 6]

Specification of Japanese Patent No. 3265356

[Patent Document 7]

10 Specification of Japanese Patent No. 3136340

[Patent Document 8]

Specification of Japanese Patent No. 3136338

[Patent Document 9]

Specification of Japanese Patent No. 2992631

15 [Patent Document 10]

Japanese Patent Laid-open Publication JP-2000-313878-A

[Patent Document 11]

Japanese Patent Laid-open Publication JP-2001-49251-A

20

[Patent Document 12] Japanese Patent Laid-open Publication JP-2001-123162-A

[Patent Document 13]

Japanese Patent Laid-open Publication JP-2001-215157-A

25

[Patent Document 14]

Specification of Japanese Patent No. 3273317

[Patent Document 15]

Japanese Patent Laid-open Publication JP-2002-
194349-A

[Patent Document 16]

5 Japanese Patent Laid-open Publication JP-2002-
194350-A

[Patent Document 17]

Japanese Patent Laid-open Publication JP-2002-
201068-A

10 [Patent Document 18]

Specification of U.S. Patent No. 6,117,574

[Patent Document 19]

Specification of U.S. Patent No. 6,159,394

[0006]

15 Next explained are prior art technologies for
complexing stress emission substances, mainly SrAl_2O_4 -
based fine particles, with resins.

Products incorporating complex materials
commercially named "LumiNova" ($\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4\text{:Eu+Dy}$) into
20 resins are on sale in form of "incorporated resin
pellets" from Nemoto & Co., Ltd. (Non-patent Document
18 and 19).

[Non-patent Document 18]

25 <URL:[http://www.nemoto.co.jp/products/luminova/
/index.html](http://www.nemoto.co.jp/products/luminova/index.html)> accessed through the Internet on
August 30, 2002.

[Non-patent Document 19]

<URL:http://www.nemoto.co.jp/products/gss/index.html> accessed through the Internet on August 30, 2002.

[0007]

5 The above web documents and Non-patent Document 9 disclose polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA), ABS resins, polycarbonate (PC), polystyrene (PS), Polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP), polyacetals (PA) and urethane resins as resin materials. Further,
10 according to the web documents, there seems to be a trial of incorporation into silicone rubber. However, no details are disclosed. About mixture ratios of powder and resins, a ratio around 10% in weight percent is the sole suggestion.

15 [0008]

 On the other hand, most of complex materials reported in research papers of the discoverer of stress emission, Xu, and others, are mixtures of powder into epoxy resins as matrices, and they are in form of bulk
20 aggregates. Therefore, strong mechanical force from a vise, for example, is required to induce their emission of light.

 In Non-patent Document 10, Xu describes application of his complex materials mainly to
25 technologies for visualizing stress profiles and various types of displays. However, he describes or suggests nothing about development of their

applications to artificial light-emitting skins, artificial light-emitting hair, artificial light-emitting bodies, artificial light-emitting cloth, and like others, for the purpose of entertainment.

5 Additionally, in relation to complexing techniques, the sole statement is found in a research paper about epoxy resin molding. Complexing with other resins is not found at all in the web documents either.

[0009]

10 Some products as applications of phosphorescent materials developed by Nemoto & Co., Ltd. are distributed from Tokyo Intelligent Network Kabushiki Kaisha (Non-patent Document 20 and 21), and products from San Unit Company (Non-patent Document 15 22). Products of Non-patent Documents 20, 21 are applications to phosphorescent tiles, phosphorescent straps, phosphorescent special make gels, phosphorescent wallpaper, and so on, as applications of phosphorescent materials. Products of Non-patent 20 Document 22 are applications of phosphorescent materials to tiles, paints, pellets, balls, and so on. However, there is no disclosure or suggestion on developments of applications to artificial light-emitting skins, artificial light-emitting hair, 25 artificial light-emitting bodies, artificial light-emitting cloth, and like others, for the purpose of entertainment.

[Non-patent Document 20]

<URL: <http://www2.raidway.ne.jp/~tin/>> accessed through the Internet on August 30, 2002.

[Non-patent Document 21]

<URL:<http://www2.raidway.ne.jp/~tin/nl/nl.html>> accessed through the Internet on August 30, 2002.

[Non-patent Document 22]

<URL:<http://web.kyotoinet.or.jp/people/sansanuc/s4/html>> accessed through the Internet on August 30, 2002.

[0010]

There are documents concerning transparent phosphorescent materials (Patent Document 20 to 24) although none of them discuss stress emission. Patent Document 20 discloses highly transparent fluorescent films extremely reduced in voids in the fluorescent films. Patent Document 21 describes fluorescent writing/drawing instruments containing transparent fluorescent inks and having ultraviolet lamps, and explains that images drawn with the instruments can be changed visible and invisible repeatedly. Patent Document 22 describes that transparent phosphorescent materials are obtained by using ultrafine particles of a grain size not reflecting visible light (1 to 100 nm) as the phosphorescent phosphors and complexing them with transparent binders, and this document discloses

SrAl₂O₄:Eu phosphorescent phosphors as their
embodiments. Patent Document 23 discloses commuter
tickets using transparent phosphorescent inks or
transparent infrared absorption inks and effective for
5 preventing falsification. Patent Document 24 discloses
a sheet having secret information of characters or
others written by transparent ink to prevent
falsification. These documents relate to materials
essentially different in function from stress emission
10 materials.

[Patent Document 20]

Japanese Patent Laid-open Publication JP-H06-
43580-B

[Patent Document 21]

15 Japanese Patent Laid-open Publication JP-H07-
195890-A

[Patent Document 22]

Japanese Patent Laid-open Publication JP-H09-
95671-A

20 [Patent Document 23]

Japanese Patent Laid-open Publication JP-H06-
227192-A

[Patent Document 24]

25 Japanese Patent Laid-open Publication JP-H09-
183288-A

[0011]

There is a proposal of a method for

synthesizing ultrafine particles by using inverted micelles (Non-patent Document 23).

[Non-patent Document 23]

T. Kawai, Shokuzai, 71(1993) 449.

5 [0012]

Furthermore, it has been reported that ultrafine particles can be aligned in order by using exchange reaction of ligands on surfaces of ultrafine particles (Non-patent Document 24). As an example of surface modification by ligand exchange of organic molecules covering precursor ultrafine particles with desired organic molecules, it has been proposed to coat the surfaces with molecules such as polyoxyethylene (1) lauryl ether phosphoric acid or polyoxyethylene (4, 5) lauryl ether (Patent Document 25).

[Non-patent Document 24]

T. Torimoto and F. Ohtani, Electrochemistry, 69(2001) 866.

[Patent Document 25]

20 Japanese Patent Laid-open Publication JP-2002-20471-A.

[0013]

[Subject that the Invention is to solve]

25 In any of the above-introduced prior art techniques, stress emission particles are prepared by crushing ceramics prepared by solid phase reaction into powder.

Therefore, it was difficult to obtain stress emission particles of a uniform grain size, and the grain size was as large as several μm . Accordingly, it has been difficult to obtain complex materials in which stress emission particles are uniformly dispersed. Moreover, it was difficult to apply stress emission particles to devices having micro-sized structures. For example, in case of preparing stress emission artificial hair by packing stress emission particles in transparent tubes, a limit of downsizing the diameter of the tubes will make it difficult to obtain sufficiently thin stress emission artificial hair.

[0014]

Furthermore, since stress emission particles having a grain size as large as several μm scatter and reflect light in the range of visible light (wavelengths from 400 to 750 nm), it was impossible to prepare transparent stress emission materials from those stress emission particles. Therefore, the conventional stress emission particles are not suitable for use in portions such as a display panel required to be transparent, with which it is necessary to confirm information on one surface of the panel from the opposite surface through the panel.

[0015]

The present invention intends to overcome the above-mentioned problems.

That is, an object of the invention is to provide crystalline superfine particles as stress emission articles that are excellent in dispersibility when complexed with other materials, enhanced in emission efficiency, and suitable for preparing transparent stress emission materials.

[0016]

A further object of the invention is to provide a manufacturing method suitable for manufacturing such crystalline ultrafine particles, inverted micelles, inverted micelles enveloping precursor superfine particles, inverted micelles enveloping crystalline superfine particles, precursor superfine particles, and complex material containing them.

[0017]

A still further object of the invention is to provide a complex material from which a hand or finger touch of a person can induce emission of light and which is allowed to emit light only when a stress is applied by a hand touch, for example.

[0018]

[Means for Solving the Subject]

Through vigorous studies toward solution of the aforementioned problems involved in the prior art techniques, the Inventors have found that a stress emission material remarkably excellent in

dispersibility can be obtained if a complex material is made by using crystalline superfine particles prepared by an inverted micelle method to have a grain size from 5 nm to 100 nm, precursor superfine particles prepared by the inverted micelle method, or the like, and have reached the present invention.

[0019]

That is, according to the first aspect of the invention, there is provided a crystalline superfine particle characterized in having a grain size in the range from 5 nm to 100 nm and emitting light depending upon the time-rate-of-change of a stress applied thereto.

[0020]

The reason why the grain size of the crystalline superfine particles is limited to from 5 nm to 100 nm (including the critical values in all numerical expressions using "from" and "to" herein).

In order to permit visible light in the wavelength range from 380 nm to 780 nm to pass without scattering or reflection, the grain size is preferably below 100 nm. On the other hand, the stress emission material is typically made by addition of a very small amount of emission center elements to the matrix material.

Therefore, if the grain size is smaller than 5 nm, it is difficult to manufacture the crystalline ultrafine particles because crystalline superfine grains failing

to include emission center elements and hence low in emission intensity appear with a high probability. In addition, crystalline superfine particles of a grain size below 5 nm will be difficult to handle. The grain size of the crystalline superfine particles may be determined in the range from 5 nm to 100 nm. However, its typical range is from 5 nm to 80 nm, and its more typical range is from 20 nm to 80 nm. In addition, when complexed with other materials, the crystalline superfine particles are used in form of powder (a mass of particles). The crystalline superfine particles forming the powder preferably have a mean grain size from 5 nm to 100 nm. In this case, the standard deviation of the grain size distribution is preferably limited within $\pm 30\%$, more preferably within $\pm 20\%$, still more preferably within $\pm 10\%$, and most preferably within $\pm 5\%$.

[0021]

The crystalline superfine grains may have any shapes such as spherical, cubic, rectangular, flat or rod-like shapes. Usually, however, spherical particles are used. In case of flat and rod-shaped crystalline superfine particles, their grain size pertains to their lengthwise size.

[0022]

To induce emission of light depending upon the time-rate-of-change of a stress, an external energy

is applied to the crystalline superfine particles. This energy is typically a mechanical energy by a stress generated by an external force. Otherwise, vibration energies by elastic vibrations or acoustic waves such as ultrasonic waves applied from outside are also contemplated herein.

[0023]

Surfaces of the crystalline superfine particles may be covered by organic molecules, for example. Various kinds of organic molecules are acceptable for this purpose. However, in case the crystalline superfine particles are manufacture by the inverted micelle method as explained later, the organic molecules are a surface-active agent having hydrophilic groups and hydrophobic groups. The hydrophilic groups are $-\text{SO}_3^-$, $\text{R}_2\text{N}^+\text{R}_2$ (R is an alkyl group), $-\text{OH}$, $-(\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2)_n-$, $-\text{O}-$ or $-\text{N}=$, or the like, and the hydrophobic groups are in form of normal chains or alkyl chains having branches, for example.

[0024]

A typical stress emission material used for preparing the crystalline ultrafine particles is an inorganic compound. Various kinds of inorganic compounds are usable for this purpose, and one or more kinds of such inorganic compounds may be used, depending upon the intended use. Typically, such inorganic compounds are oxides, sulfides, nitrides and

carbides. More specifically, they are wurtzite type piezoelectric materials such as ZnS:Mn, ZnS:Cu, ZnS:Eu, ZnS:Ce, AlN:Mn, SiC:Mn, ZnO:Eu and ZnO:Mn; ZrO₂:Ce, ZrO₂:Ti and HfO₂:Ce, CeO:Ce having a fluorite structure; Cr₂O₃:Ce, Ti₂O₃:Ce and Al₂O₃:Ce having corundum type structures; aluminates such as Sr₃Al₂O₆:Eu, Ca₃Al₂O₆:Nd, MgAl₂O₄:Ce, Eu, Mn, Cu, Eu+Tb, SrAl₂O₄, SrAl₂O₄:Eu, BaAl₂O₄:Eu, CaAl₂O₄:Ce, SrMgAl₁₀O₁₇:Eu, Sr-Ba-Mg-Al-O:Eu, Ba-Mg-Al-O:Eu, Y-Ba-Mg-Si-O-based Y₂SiO₅:Eu, Ce, Sm, BaSi₂O₅:Pb and Ba₃MgSi₂O₈:Eu; Ca₂Al₂SiO₇:Ce, CaMgSi₂O₇:Ce, Ca₂(Mg, Fe)Si₂O₇:Ce, CaYAl₃O₇:Ce, Ca₂B₂SiO₇:Ce, CaNaAlSi₂O₇:Ce, (Ca, Na)₂(Al, Mg)(Si, Al)₂O₇:Ce and Ca₂(Mg, Al)(Al, Si)SiO₇:Ce having melilite structures; spinel type ZnGa₂O₄:Mn, ZnAl₂O₄:Mn and MgGa₂O₄:Mn; and their derivative inorganic components.

[0025]

Especially when the crystalline superfine particles are composed of alkaline earth aluminate, they are an oxide crystal having the composition expressed by the following general formula,



where $0.8 \leq x \leq 1.1$

$$1.8 \leq y \leq 2.2$$

$$\{(2x+3y)/2\} - 0.2 < z < \{(2x+3y)/2\} + 0.2$$

$$A = Sr_k Ba_l Ca_m Mg_n$$

$$(0 \leq k, l, m, n \leq 1, k+l+m+n=1)$$

$$B = Al_{1-p}D_p \quad (0 \leq p < 1)$$

$$D = Y_qGa_rIn_t \quad (0 \leq q, r, t \leq 1, q+r+t=1)$$

The term A in the general formula $A_xB_yO_z$ is expressed as $Sr_kBa_lCa_mMg_n$. This means that it is a solid solution containing alkaline earths Sr, Ba, Ca, Mg in any arbitrary composition. D is expressed as $Y_qGa_rIn_t$, and this means that it is a solid solution containing any arbitrary composition of Y, Ga and In. Typically, however, it is a solid solution containing Al as its major component and additionally containing Y, Ga and In. In some cases, rare earth elements or transition metal elements are added to the crystalline superfine particles. In such cases, rare earth elements or transition metal elements are typically added by not more than 0.2 mol in total relative to 1 mol of $A_xB_yO_z$. Typically, at least Eu is added as the rare earth element or the transition metal element. In case rare earth elements or transition metal elements are added, they are typically introduced to replace the A site of the oxide crystal to form a solid solution.

[0026]

A plurality of stress emission materials different in emission color and exhibiting emission of desired colors may be selected and combined to form a material that emits light of different colors. For example, from the viewpoint of emission intensity, aluminate materials are preferable. Among them,

SrAl₂O₄:Eu emitting green light most visible for human eyes is especially suitable.

[0027]

5 Basically, any method is acceptable for manufacturing the crystalline ultrafine particles. However, the inverted micelle method is preferably used as explained later.

10 The features of the first aspect of the invention summarized above are applicable to the second to thirteenth aspects of the invention as well, as far as they are congruous to their natures.

[0028]

15 According to the second aspect of the invention, there is provided a complex material composed of crystalline superfine particles having a grain size in the range from 5 nm to 100 nm and another material, and emitting light depending upon the time-rate-of-change of a stress applied thereto.

[0029]

20 The material to be complexed with the crystalline superfine particles may be selected from various kinds of materials, depending upon the intended use. The material may be only one kind or a combination of two or more kinds of different
25 materials. Alternatively, it may be one or both of an organic material or an inorganic material. In some cases, the material may be an organic/inorganic

complexed substance. For example, this material may be one of various kinds of resins and glass. If the complex material should be flexible, an elastic material is selected from those materials. In this case, weight percentage of the crystalline superfine particles in the complex material may be determined adequately depending upon the intended use of the complex material. However, if an elastic material is used as the material to be complexed with the crystalline superfine particles, the weight percent is preferably controlled in the range from 30% and to less than 100%, or more preferably from 30% to 80%, from the standpoint of keeping the entirety of the complex material flexible to facilitate stress emission with human force and improve the durability. Those materials may have any Young's modulus as far as human force, for example, can readily induce emission of light. Young's modulus of a relatively hard material will be, for example, 10 MPa or more, and that of a softer material is preferably smaller than 10 MPa, or preferably not larger than 1 MPa, for example. Usually, it is 0.0001 MPa or more. Similarly, Young's modulus of the complex material is 10 MPa or more, for example. Young's modulus of a softer complex material is, for example, smaller than 10 MPa, or typically not larger than 1 MPa, for example. Usually, it is 0.0001 MPa or more.

[0030]

In the complex material, the crystalline superfine particles disperse without contacting with each other. On the other hand, during the manufacture of the complex material, such as during mixture, the crystalline ultrafine particles sometimes aggregate undesirably for some reason. Even in such a case, if the size of the aggregation does not exceed 100 nm, for example, scattering and reflection of visible light can be prevented.

[0031]

A typical material complexed with the crystalline ultrafine particles is an organic substance. For example, it is at least one kind of substances selected from the group consisting of Its examples are acrylic resin, methacrylic resin, polymethyl methacrylate, ABS resin, polycarbonate, polystyrene, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyacetal, urethane resin, polyester, epoxy resin, silicone rubber, organic silicon compounds having siloxane bonds and organic piezoelectric substances. Examples of organic piezoelectric substances are polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) and polytrifluoroethylene copolymers. In addition to them, foaming substances such as expanded polystyrene, polyethylene foam and their mixture are usable, and they are especially suitable for obtaining a soft complex material excellent in

elasticity.

[0032]

In case an external force is applied to a complex material made by complexing the crystalline ultrafine particles with a resin such as polymethyl methacrylate, ABS resin, polycarbonate, polystyrene, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyacetal, urethane resin, polyester, epoxy resin, silicone rubber, organic silicon compounds having siloxane bonds or organic piezoelectric substances that are mentioned above, the complex material elastically yields without losing the original property of the resin. Accordingly, a stress is generated in the dispersed crystalline ultrafine particles, and emission of light from the crystalline ultrafine particles can be confirmed. In this case, a force of a light hand touch of a person is sufficient as the external force deform the complex material and give rise to stress emission thereof.

[0033]

When preparing the complex material combining the crystalline superfine particles and a resin, a photo-curing resin may be selected as the resin. Thus, a structure having a complicate conformation can be made by making use of a three-dimensional optical molding method. This photo-curing resin is mainly composed of a pre-polymer, monomer and initiator. For example, epoxy-based, acrylic, en-thiol-based resins

are usable as the photo-curing resin.

[0034]

Alternatively, the material to be complexed with the crystalline ultrafine particles may be an electrically conductive organic substance that deforms by acquiring ions, for example. Examples of such electrically conductive organic substances are electrically conductive polymers of complex aromatic rings such as polypyrrole, polythiophene, and polyanilin. Polymeric gel materials are also usable as the material to be complexed with the crystalline ultrafine particles. When a polymeric gel material is used, it may be at least one kind of materials selected from the group consisting of water-soluble non-electrolytic polymeric gel having a thermal displacement function, electrolytic polymeric gel giving rise to displacement by pH, combination of a polymeric compound giving rise to displacement by electricity and a surface-active agent, polyvinyl alcohol-based material and polypyrrolic material. The water-soluble non-electrolytic polymeric gel displaceable with heat may be, for example, polyvinyl methyl ether or poly-N-isopropyl acrylamide. The electrolytic polymeric gel displaceable with pH may be, for example, polyacrylonitrile. The polymeric compound displaceable with electricity may be, for example, polyacrylamide-2-methylpropane sulfuric acid.

[0035]

In case an inorganic substance is used as the material to be complexed with the crystalline superfine particles in the complex material, a typical inorganic substance is inorganic glass. In general, this glass contains at least one kind of element selected from the group consisting of Si, Ge, Ti, Zr, Pb, B, Al, P, As, Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba, Li, Na, K, S, Se, Te and F. More specifically, it is composed of at least one kind of substance selected from an oxide containing Si, Al, Ti or B, silica glass, borosilicate glass, boric acid glass, soda glass and aluminate-based glass. These kinds of glass have higher Young's moduli than resins. So much, however, they are advantageous inducing a stress in the crystalline superfine particles more effectively.

[0036]

In case the complex material is a liquid paint, ink, adhesive, or the like, a binder, additive, solvent, or the like, is typically used as another materials to be complexed with the crystalline superfine particles. An inorganic resin (such as polysiloxane or polyborosiloxane), metallic alcoxide (such as organic silicate or organic titanate), both as a binder; viscosity improver, anti-sedimentation agent or hardener, all as an additive; organic solvent or water, both as a solvent; is selected adequately where

necessary.

[0037]

In case the crystalline ultrafine particles are complexed with another material, the material is preferably transparent to visible light not to reduce the emission luminance. The above-mentioned resins such as epoxy resin, acrylic resin and silicone rubber, and borosilicate glass, are favorable examples for this purpose. As such, by using a transparent material to visible light as the material to be complexed with the crystalline superfine particles, it is ensured that the crystalline superfine particles having the above-mentioned grain size from 5 nm to 100 nm transmit visible light without scattering or reflecting it, and at the same time, it is possible to obtain a complex material that allows transparent to visible light. Therefore, in case a sheet, film or artificial light-emitting hair explained later, is made of the transparent complex material, they are normally transparent, and emission of light can be brought about from the crystalline ultrafine particles dispersed in their complex materials only when stressed by a hand touch or a bending force, for example. Moreover, although a transparent stress emission paint or transparent stress emission ink made by dispersing the crystalline ultrafine particles in a binder, or the like, are normally transparent and invisible, they emit

light from their coated area only when stressed by a hand touch, for example.

[0038]

Specific examples of the complex material are: a combination of crystalline superfine particles made of SrAl_2O_4 or BaAl_2O_4 as the matrix substance and 0.001 % to 20% of Eu added to the matrix substance, and an organic substance as the other material comprising polyester, acrylic resin, methacryl resin or their mixture; a combination of crystalline ultrafine particles made of SrAl_2O_4 or BaAl_2O_4 as the matrix substance and 0.001 % to 20% of Eu added to the matrix substance, and an inorganic material as the other material comprising inorganic glass.

[0039]

A complex material remarkably excellent in dispersibility can be made by selecting appropriate materials taking account of affinity between ligands on surfaces of ultrafine particles and the material to be complexed, as explained later, when complexing the crystalline ultrafine particles and the other material. Therefore, this is preferably taken into consideration when selecting materials. It is also possible to arrange superfine particles in order by using exchange reaction of ligands on surfaces of the superfine particles.

[0040]

Various kinds of structures can be manufactured from the complex material. Artificial light-emitting sheets, artificial light-emitting hair and artificial light-emitting fiber are possible examples. Further from such artificial light-emitting hair or artificial light-emitting fiber, artificial light-emitting hair structures, artificial light-emitting skin, artificial light-emitting bodies can be made.

10 [0041]

More specifically, it is possible to manufacture artificial light-emitting hair structure having a conformation in which a plurality of artificial light-emitting hairs composed of the complex material are fixed upright on a substratum, artificial light-emitting skin, and artificial light-emitting body having a conformation in which a plurality of artificial light-emitting hairs composed of the complex material are fixed upright on a body surface. The artificial light-emitting hair typically has a needle-like, fiber-like, or thread-like shape. Thickness of the artificial light-emitting hair may be determined as desired provided it sufficiently bends when touched by hands or fingers of a person and reliably emits light. However, if the artificial light-emitting hair is desired to be flexible, reliably undergo internal stress required for stress emission and thereby emit

light easily, and gives favorable tactile impression to a person who touches it, the thickness is preferably controlled to be not thicker than 2 mm, more preferably not thicker than 1 mm, or still more preferably not thicker than 0.5 mm. The lower limit of the thickness of the artificial light-emitting hair is normally 0.1 mm or more, for example, although it may be determined as desired as far as sufficient strength is ensured. The thickness may be uniform in the entire area of the substratum, or may be different locally. Surface density of the artificial light-emitting hair on the substratum may be determined according to need. However, in order to ensure clear emission of light from the location a human hand or finger touches, the surface density is preferably controlled to be one per cm^2 , or more preferably two per cm^2 . The upper limit of the surface density is determined by the thickness of the artificial light-emitting hair used. The surface density may be uniform throughout the entire area of the substratum, or may be different locally. Standing angle of the artificial light-emitting hair relative to the substratum is determined according to need. It may be either 90° or any other angle. Typically, however, it is 90° . This angle may be uniform throughout the entire area of the substratum, or may be different locally. For fixing the artificial light-emitting hair upright on the substratum, any appropriate method may

be used essentially. Typically, however, roots of artificial light-emitting hairs are held in holes (either through holes or blind holes) formed in the substratum. The artificial light-emitting hairs are typically aligned at periodical intervals. For example, they are aligned in a regular grid pattern such as a square grid pattern or an equilateral triangular pattern. The pattern of alignment may be uniform throughout the entire area of the substratum, or may be different locally. Artificial hairs not having the light-emitting function may be mixed among the artificial light-emitting hairs if so desired.

[0042]

To ensure uniform emission from the artificial light-emitting hair, the crystalline superfine particles are preferably dispersed uniformly in the artificial light-emitting hair. To improve the tactile impression of the artificial light-emitting hair or enhance its durability, the artificial light-emitting hair is surface-coated by an organic material layer such as a coating layer. The substratum is preferably made of a flexible material permitting a human hand force to bend it easily. However, any other material may be used as well.

[0043]

Artificial light-emitting fabric can be manufactured from artificial light-emitting fibers of

the complex material. The weaving or knitting cycle of the artificial light-emitting fabric is determined depending upon the intended use. To ensure clear emission just from a portion touched by a human hand, for example, the cycle is preferably once per cm or more, or more preferably twice per cm or more. There are various types of weaving or knitting configurations, and any of them may be selected depending upon the intended use. The artificial light-emitting fabric may be made of artificial light-emitting fibers alone. However, it may be weaved or knitted by using a substratum having periodical through holes, for example, and passing artificial light-emitting fibers through the through holes. In this case, a periodical beautiful pattern will be made on the fabric. The surface density of the through holes in the substratum is preferably one per cm^2 or more, or more preferably two per cm^2 or more. If so desired, other fibers not having the light-emitting function may be mixed among the artificial light-emitting fibers.

[0044]

The above-summarized artificial light-emitting hair structures, artificial light-emitting skins, artificial light-emitting bodies and artificial light-emitting fabrics are suitable for use as bodies or decorations of various kinds of robots (working robots, entertainment robots, amusement robots, and so

on), various kinds of home electric devices such as audio devices (including loudspeakers), television sets, video devices, etc. as well as daily goods such as stationery goods.

5 The features of the second aspect of the invention summarized above are applicable to the third to thirteenth aspects of the invention as well, as far as they are congruous to their natures.

[0045]

10 The crystalline superfine particles and their precursor superfine particles explained above can be manufactured by using the inverted micelle method that is a method of synthesizing superfine particles by making use of water droplets having sizes in the order
15 of nanometers and stably dispersed in oil by a surfactant as the field of reaction. This method can readily change the size of the reaction field, and can therefore control the grain size of the superfine particles in a predetermined range, for example, from 5
20 to 100 nm. Moreover, since the method can make reaction fields of a uniform size, it can manufacture superfine particles remarkably excellent in monodispersibility. Any appropriate surfactant may be used for the inverted micelle method. Examples usable
25 for this purpose are anionic bis-(2-ethylhexyl) sodium sulfosuccinate (AOT), cationic hexadecyltrimethyl ammonium-bromide, cetyltrimethylbenzil

ammonium=bromide, butyldodecyl dimethyl ammonium-bromide, dioleyl dimethyl ammonium chloride, nonionic pentaoxyethylene glycol dodecyl=ether, hexaoxyethylene glycol dodecyl ether and polyoxyethylene (6)

5 nonylphenyl=ether. As the oil phase, one or more kinds may be selected and used from, for example, cyclohexane, heptane, octane, isooctane, benzene and chlorobenzene. The metal source used for this purpose is not restrictive, but any appropriate metal source
10 may be used for this purpose. For example, appropriate one may be selected from nitrates, sulfates, metal alcoxides, hydroxides, halides, and others, containing the metal forming the crystalline superfine particles to be manufactured. By dissolving metal ions of such a
15 metal source in inverted micelles and bringing about their hydrolytic or precipitating reaction, superfine particles can be synthesized. Further, by crystallizing the precursor superfine particles thus prepared by annealing, irradiation of laser beams,
20 irradiation of ultrasonic waves, irradiation of microwaves, or the like, stress emission superfine particles having a high crystallographic quality, i.e. crystalline superfine particles, can be obtained. For preparing a complex material of crystalline ultrafine
25 particles and another material, the stress emission superfine particles prepared by the above-explained method may be used. However, products obtained at

respective steps of their manufacturing process may be used as well. For example, it is possible to complex inverted micelles of metal ions in dissolved in water before hydrolytic or precipitating reaction or

5 precursor superfine particles before final crystallization and thereafter carry out a treatment for their crystallization. In case such precursor superfine particles are used, they may maintain on their surfaces certain organic molecules such as
10 solvent, ligands or surfactant used for the manufacturing reaction, or organic components such as organic structures generated by some chemical changes of those organic molecules. Any forms are acceptable as the way of linkage of such organic components to
15 surfaces of precursor superfine particles or crystalline superfine particles. There are various ways of linkage or interaction such as coordinate linkage, covalent linkage, ionic bond, Van der Waals force, hydrogen bridge, hydrophobic-hydrophilic
20 interaction, interlace of molecular chains. Precursor superfine particles or crystalline superfine particles covered by organic molecules can be obtained easily by drying inverted micelles enveloping precursor superfine particles or crystalline superfine particles.

25 Alternatively, they are obtained by modifying their surfaces by ligand exchange with desired organic molecules as well. For example, their surfaces may be

coated by molecules of polyoxyethylene (1) laurylether
phosphoric acid or polyoxyethylene (4, 5) laurylether.

When the material to be complexed is selected from
materials affinitive to organic molecules or others
5 maintained on surfaces of the particles, a complex
material excellent in dispersibility can be prepared.

An example of such materials is an organic silicone
compound having siloxane bonds. In this case, siloxane
couples to hydrophobic groups of a surfactant on
10 surfaces of the particles. It is also possible to
rinse inverted micelles enveloping precursor superfine
particles or crystalline superfine particles with an
organic solvent, for example, and use them as precursor
superfine particles or crystalline superfine particles
15 having nothing on their surfaces.

[0046]

According to the third aspect of the
invention, there is provided a method of manufacturing
a crystalline superfine particle which emits light
20 depending upon the time-rate-of-change of a stress
applied thereto, comprising:

forming a substance in which metal ions of a
metal for forming the crystalline superfine particle
dissolves in water contained in a molecular aggregate
25 which orient hydrophilic groups of surfactant molecules
inward and hydrophobic groups thereof outward in a
nonpolar solvent.

[0047]

The grain size of the crystalline superfine particles is preferably controlled in the range from 5 nm to 100 nm for the reason already explained.

5 However, it need not be limited so. The mean grain size of water inside the molecular aggregate, that is, the size of the water droplet as the reaction field in the surfactant, may be determined in accordance with the grain size of the crystalline superfine particles to be manufactured. For example, it may be controlled
10 in the range from 5 nm to 100nm. The surfactant, oil phase, metal source, and so on, may be selected from the materials introduced above, for example. The hydrophilic groups of the surfactant typically have hydrophilic bonds expressed by $-O_3^-$, $R_2N^+R_2$ (R: Alkyl group), $-OH$, $-(OCH_2CH_2)_n-$, $-O-$, $-N=$, or the like, and the hydrophobic groups of the surfactant typically have the form of straight or branched alkyl chains.

[0048]

20 Concentration of metal ions in the water enveloped by the molecule aggregate is typically 10 mol/l relative to the water. Especially when the crystalline superfine particles have a composition expressed by the general formula $A_xB_yO_z$, metal ions in the water enveloped by the molecular aggregates are
25 ions of alkaline earth metals composing A or ions of the metal composing B, and the ratio of the ions of the

metal composing A relative to ions of the alkaline earth metal composing A is from 0.1 to 5. Furthermore, the water enveloped by the molecular aggregates typically contains 0.2 mol or less of rare earth elements or transition metal elements in total relative to 1 mol of ions of the alkaline earth metal as the component A. For example, at least Eu is contained in the rare earth elements or the transition metal elements.

10 [0049]

After the product is formed in the nonpolar solvent, in which product the ions of the metal that will compose the crystalline superfine particles are dissolved in the water enveloped in inverted micelles that are molecular aggregates orienting hydrophilic groups of the surfactant inward and hydrophobic groups outward, the product undergoes a treatment for inducing hydrolytic or precipitating reaction of the metal ions dissolved in the inverted micelles. As a result, precursor superfine particles are synthesized. If precipitation reaction is intended, the precipitant used may be, for example, ammonia water (NH_4OH), hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2), or the like. Then, once the prepared precursor superfine particles crystallize under a treatment such as annealing, irradiation of laser beams, irradiation of ultrasonic waves or irradiation of microwaves, for example, crystalline

superfine particles are obtained. If crystalline
superfine particles of oxides are desired, for example,
addition of a precipitant such as ammonia water results
in generating hydroxides of a metal and they become
precursor superfine particles. Therefore, oxygen
required for forming oxides is supplied from them.
Oxygen necessary for forming the oxides can be supplied
by using an atmosphere containing oxygen in the process
of crystallization as well.

[0050]

Alternatively, the crystalline superfine
particles can be obtained by first obtaining the
product in which ions of the metal that will form the
crystalline superfine particles are dissolved in the
water enveloped by inverted micelles as mentioned
above, and thereafter carrying out annealing,
irradiation of laser beams, irradiation of ultrasonic
waves, irradiation of microwaves, or the like, for
crystallization in an adequate atmosphere suitable for
the substance that will form the crystalline superfine
particles. For example, if crystalline superfine
particles composed of oxides are desired, then an
atmosphere containing oxygen may be used. If
crystalline superfine particles composed of sulfides
are desired, then an atmosphere containing sulfur (for
example, H_2S atmosphere) may be used.

[0051]

Alternatively, the crystalline superfine particles can be obtained by first obtaining the product in which ions of the metal that will form the crystalline superfine particles are dissolved in the water enveloped by inverted micelles as mentioned above, and thereafter directly inducing hydrolytic or precipitating reaction of the metal ions dissolved in the inverted micelles.

If crystalline superfine particles composed of sulfides are desired, for example, then the above-mentioned inverted micelles containing the metal ions are brought into reaction with inverted micelles containing a precipitant such as Na_2S . Thus, the crystalline superfine particles can be readily, directly synthesized.

The features of the third aspect of the invention summarized above are applicable to the fourth to thirteenth aspects of the invention as well, as far as they are congruous to their natures.

[0052]

According to the fourth aspect of the invention, there is provided a method of manufacturing a crystalline superfine particle which emits light depending upon the time-rate-of-change of a stress applied thereto, comprising:

forming a substance in which metal ions of a metal for forming a precursor superfine particle of the

crystalline superfine particle dissolves in water
contained in a molecular aggregate which orient
hydrophilic groups of surfactant molecules inward and
hydrophobic groups thereof outward in a nonpolar
5 solvent.

[0053]

In general, grain size of the precursor
superfine particles is presumed to be slightly larger
than the grain size of crystalline superfine particles
10 to be manufactured. Approximately, however, it is
equivalent to the grain size of the crystalline
superfine particles to be manufactured, and it may be,
for example, from 5 nm to 100 nm.

[0054]

15 After the product is formed in the nonpolar
solvent, in which product precursor superfine particles
of the crystalline superfine particles are dissolved in
the water enveloped in inverted micelles that are
molecular aggregates orienting hydrophilic groups of
20 the surfactant inward and hydrophobic groups outward,
the precursor superfine particles undergo a treatment
for crystallization, such as annealing, irradiation of
laser beams, irradiation of ultrasonic waves or
irradiation of microwaves. As a result, stress
25 emission superfine particles having a high
crystallographic property, i.e. crystalline superfine
particles, are obtained.

[0055]

According to the fifth aspect of the invention, there is provided a method of manufacturing a crystalline superfine particle which emits light depending upon the time-rate-of-change of a stress applied thereto, comprising:

forming a substance in which the crystalline superfine particle is contained in water which is contained in a molecular aggregate orienting hydrophilic groups of surfactant molecules inward and hydrophobic groups thereof outward in a nonpolar solvent.

In this case, no treatment for crystallization is needed because crystalline superfine particles are formed directly in inverted micelles.

[0056]

According to the sixth aspect of the invention, there is provided a inverted micelle to be used for manufacturing a crystalline superfine particle which emits light depending upon the time-rate-of-change of a stress applied thereto, characterized in containing metal ions of a metal for forming the crystalline superfine particle in water contained in a molecular aggregate which orients hydrophilic groups of surfactant molecules inward and hydrophobic groups thereof outward in a nonpolar solvent.

[0057]

According to the seventh aspect of the invention, there is provided an inverted micelle enveloping a precursor superfine particle, which is used to manufacture a crystalline superfine particle which emits light depending upon the time-rate-of-change of a stress applied thereto, characterized in containing a precursor superfine particle in water contained in a molecular aggregate which orients hydrophilic groups of surfactant molecules inward and hydrophobic groups thereof outward in a nonpolar solvent.

[0058]

According to the eighth aspect of the invention, there is provided an inverted micelle enveloping a crystalline superfine particle, which is used for manufacturing a crystalline superfine particle which emits light depending upon the time-rate-of-change of a stress applied thereto, characterized in containing the crystalline superfine particle in water contained in a molecular aggregate which orients hydrophilic groups of surfactant molecules inward and hydrophobic groups thereof outward in a nonpolar solvent.

[0059]

According to the ninth aspect of the invention, there is provided a precursor superfine particle to be used for manufacturing a crystalline

superfine particle which emits light depending upon the time-rate-of-change of a stress applied thereto, characterized in changing to the crystalline superfine particle when crystallized.

5 [0060]

According to the tenth aspect of the invention, there is provided a complex material comprising:

10 inverted micelles to be used for manufacturing crystalline fine particles which emit light depending upon the time-rate-of-change of a stress applied thereto, in which molecular aggregates each orienting hydrophilic groups of surfactant molecules inward and hydrophobic groups thereof outward
15 in a nonpolar solvent, and each contain water in which metal ions of a metal for forming the crystalline superfine particles are dissolved; and

another material complexed with the inverted micelles.

20 [0061]

For manufacturing the complex material, treatment for crystallization, such as annealing, irradiation of laser beams, irradiation of ultrasonic waves, irradiation of microwaves, or the like, may be
25 carried out in an adequate atmosphere suitable for the substance that will form the crystalline superfine particles. For example, if crystalline superfine

particles composed of oxides are desired, then an atmosphere containing oxygen may be used. If crystalline superfine particles composed of sulfides are desired, then an atmosphere containing sulfur (for example, H_2S atmosphere) may be used. As a result, stress emission superfine particles having a high crystallographic property, i.e. crystalline superfine particles, are obtained.

[0062]

According to the eleventh aspect of the invention, there is provided a complex material comprising:

inverted micelles enveloping precursor superfine particles to be used for manufacturing crystalline fine particles which emit light depending upon the time-rate-of-change of a stress applied thereto, in which molecular aggregates each orienting hydrophilic groups of surfactant molecules inward and hydrophobic groups thereof outward in a nonpolar solvent, and each contain water in which the precursor superfine particle is enveloped; and

another material complexed with the inverted micelles.

[0063]

For manufacturing the complex material, treatment for crystallization, such as annealing, irradiation of laser beams, irradiation of ultrasonic

waves, irradiation of microwaves, or the like, may be carried out. As a result, stress emission superfine particles having a high crystallographic property, i.e. crystalline superfine particles, are obtained.

5 If the other material is a resin, for example, surfactants on the micelles enveloping the precursor superfine particles bonds to the resin components by a Van der Waals force, hydrogen bridges or chemical linkage, for example.

10 [0064]

 According to the twelfth aspect of the invention, there is provided a complex material comprising:

15 inverted micelles enveloping crystalline superfine particles to be used for manufacturing crystalline fine particles which emit light depending upon the time-rate-of-change of a stress applied thereto, in which molecular aggregates each orienting hydrophilic groups of surfactant molecules inward and
20 hydrophobic groups thereof outward in a nonpolar solvent, and each contain water in which the crystalline superfine particle is enveloped; and

 another material complexed with the inverted micelles.

25 For manufacturing this complex material, no treatment for crystallization is required because the crystalline superfine particles are enveloped in the

inverted micelles.

If the other material is a resin, for example, surfactants on the micelles enveloping the precursor superfine particles bonds to the resin components by a Van der Waals force, hydrogen bridges or chemical linkage, for example.

[0065]

According to the thirteenth aspect of the invention, there is provided a complex material comprising:

precursor superfine particles used to manufacture crystalline superfine particles which emit light depending upon the time-rate-of-change of a stress applied thereto, and changeable to the crystalline superfine particles when crystallized; and another material complexed with the inverted micelles.

For manufacturing this complex material, treatment for crystallization, such as annealing, irradiation of laser beams, irradiation of ultrasonic waves, irradiation of microwaves, or the like, may be carried out. As a result, stress emission superfine particles having a high crystallographic property, i.e. crystalline superfine particles, are obtained.

[0066]

As summarized heretofore, the present invention can realize crystalline superfine particles

that are excellent in dispersibility in a material to be complexed therewith, do not scatter or reflect visible light, and are easy to manufacture and handle by controlling the grain size of the crystalline
5 superfine particles in the range from 5 nm to 100 nm.

[0067]

Additionally, the complex material prepared by complexing crystalline superfine particles having a grain size from 5 nm to 100 nm with another material
10 can be used to obtain having a desired function by selecting the other material depending upon the intended use. For example, if a flexible resin is selected as the other material, the stress emission material will emit light easily with a human hand or
15 finger touch. If a transparent material is selected as the other material, the stress emission material will be normally transparent and will emit light only when stressed by an external energy.

[0068]

20 Furthermore, once inverted micelles with or without enveloping precursor superfine particles therein are formed, crystalline superfine particles of a desired grain size can be manufactured easily by carrying out secondary treatments including
25 crystallization. Alternatively, once inverted micelles enveloping crystalline superfine particles therein are formed, crystalline superfine particles can be

manufactured directly.

[0069]

Moreover, in case a complex material is formed by complexing inverted micelles enveloping precursor superfine particles therein or precursor superfine particles themselves with another material, once some adequate secondary treatments including crystallization is carried out, a complex material composed of crystalline superfine particles of a desired grain size and the other material can be manufactured easily. Alternatively, by complexing inverted micelles enveloping crystalline superfine particles with another material, the complex material composed of crystalline superfine particles of a desired grain size and the other material can be manufactured easily.

[0070]

Furthermore, when artificial light-emitting hair or artificial light-emitting fiber is manufactured from the complex material, the artificial light-emitting hair or the artificial light-emitting fiber can emit light easily only with a light hand or finger of a person. Further, emission of light stops immediately after removal of the touch. Thus, the user can induce and acknowledge emission of light by giving a light touch to the product, and can feel comfortable with it, or it effectively induce his/her interest.

[0071]

[Embodiment of the Invention]

Some embodiments of the invention will now be explained below with reference to the drawings. In all
5 figures illustrating the embodiments, identical or equivalent components are labeled with common reference numerals.

Fig. 1 is a cross-sectional view of a complex material according to the first embodiment of the
10 invention. In the complex material, crystalline superfine particles 1 having a grain size from 5 to 100 nm and emitting light when stressed are dispersed in another material 2. Fig. 2 shows a crystalline
superfine particle 1. Various kinds of substances are
15 usable as the crystalline superfine particles 1 and the other material 2. In this case, however, the crystalline superfine particles 1 are composed of $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4:\text{Eu}$, and the other material 2 is polyester resin. In this complex material, individual
20 crystalline superfine particles 1 disperse discretely without contacting with each other.

[0072]

A method of manufacturing the complex material having the above-explained configuration is
25 explained below.

First, crystalline superfine particles 1

composed of $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4\text{:Eu}$ are manufactured by the inverted micelle method as explained below.

[0073]

A predetermined amount of the following substance used as the source material is stirred in sample tubes for one hour.

In sample tube 1

| | |
|---|---------------|
| strontium nitrate (source of Sr) | 0.00667 mol |
| aluminum nitrate 9 hydrate (source of Al) | |
| | 0.00333 mol |
| europium nitrate 6 hydrate (source of Eu) | |
| | 0.0000167 mol |
| ion-exchange water | 5 ml |

In sample tube 2

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| ammonia water (precipitant) | 2 ml |
| hydrogen peroxide (precipitant) | 0.3 ml |
| water | 2.7 ml |

In sample tube 3

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| AOT (surfactant) | 0.05 mol |
| isooctane (oil phase) | 100 ml |

[0074]

The solution in the sample tube 3 is divided into two equal parts, and individual parts are added to the solutions in the sample tubes 1 and 2. After the solutions in the sample tubes 1 and 2 are stirred for one hour, the solution in the sample tube 1 is poured into a separable flask having a heating/circulating

device, and it is heated to 150°C. Thereafter, the solution in the sample tube 2 is slowly added to the separable flask to start reaction. Heating is stopped at two hours past the start of reaction, and the separable flask is cooled to the room temperature. Precursor superfine particles obtained are centrifugally separated (for example, at 4000 rpm), and the supernatant liquid is removed. Thus, inverted micelles enveloping precursor superfine particles are obtained. Further, the micelles enveloping precursor superfine particles are heated on a hot plate held at 100°C to remove water in the inverted micelles. Thus, precursor superfine particles covered by organic molecules are obtained. Further, the sediment obtained by centrifugal separation of the inverted micelles enveloping precursor superfine particles was rinsed with acetone to obtain precursor superfine particles. The crystalline superfine particles 1 were obtained by treatments for crystallization of the precursor superfine particles, namely, calcination in oxygen at 1400°C and reduction annealing in a nitrogen atmosphere containing hydrogen (5%) at 1200°C. The X-ray diffraction pattern of the crystalline superfine particles 1, thus obtained, is shown in Fig. 3. It will be appreciated from Fig. 3 that the product is substantially composed of the intended crystalline phase, and the resulting substance was indexed by the

monoclinic system similarly to a known article (F. Hanic, T.Y. Chemekova and J. Majling, F. Appl. Phys., 12 (1979) 243). Fig. 4 shows emission spectrum appearing when the crystalline superfine particles are
5 excited by ultraviolet rays of the wavelength 254 nm from a mercury lamp.

[0075]

After that, polyester resin and powder of the crystalline superfine particles 1 obtained as explained
10 above are blended and mingled by the ratio of 1:2 in weight. The product was shaped in form of a sheet of several centimeters each side, and left for one whole day. As a result, an inorganic/organic complex sheet was obtained. This sheet is a thin sheet as thin as
15 less than 1 mm. It was see-through, and it was confirmed that a transparent sheet could be prepared. With this sheet, emission of light was confirmed only with a light manual bending force in the dark.

[0076]

20 As explained above, according to the first embodiment, since the complex material is manufactured by first manufacturing the crystalline superfine particles 1 composed of $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4:\text{Eu}$ having a grain size from 5 to 100 nm and emitting light under a stress by
25 using the inverted micelle method and by dispersing them in the polyester resin used as the other material 2, it is possible to obtain a stress emission material

that is excellent in dispersibility of the crystalline superfine particles 1, enhanced in emission efficiency and moreover transparent. With this complex material, any user can readily induce emission of light by applying his/her light manual bending force, or the like, and can induce emission only he/she touches it.

[0077]

Next explained is a complex material according to the second embodiment of the invention.

In this complex material, covered crystalline superfine particles 4 having coating of organic molecules 3 on crystalline superfine particles 1 as shown in Fig. 5 are used instead of the crystalline superfine particles 1 used in the first embodiment. In the other respects, the features set forth in conjunction with the first embodiment are applicable here again.

[0078]

This complex material is manufactured by substantially the same manufacturing method as the first embodiment. However, the manufacturing method used here is different in blending a polyester resin as the other material and covered crystalline superfine particles 4 coated by organic molecules to form the complex material.

The second embodiment also has the same advantages as those of the first embodiment.

[0079]

Next explained is a complex material according to the third embodiment of the invention.

In this complex material, a surfactant 5 shown in Fig. 6 is employed as the organic molecules 3 shown in the second embodiment. In the other respects, the features set forth in conjunction with the first embodiment are applicable here again.

[0080]

This complex material is manufactured by substantially the same manufacturing method as the first embodiment. However, the manufacturing method used here is different in blending a polyester resin as the other material and covered crystalline superfine particles 4 coated by organic molecules to form the complex material.

The third embodiment also has the same advantages as those of the first embodiment.

[0081]

Next explained is a complex material according to the fourth embodiment of the invention.

As shown in Fig. 7, inverted micelles shown in Fig. 8 and the other material 2 are first blended to obtain the complex material. As shown in Fig. 8, each inverted micelle 6 contains water in the center, in which Sr, Al and Eu ions as metal ions dissolve.

[0082]

After that, the complex material undergoes treatments for crystallization, such as annealing, irradiation of laser beams, irradiation of ultrasonic waves, irradiation of microwaves, or the like, in an atmosphere containing oxygen. As a result, crystalline superfine particles 1 composed of $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4\text{:Eu}$ are obtained, and the complex material composed of the crystalline superfine particles 1 and the other material 2 is obtained.

In the other respects, the features set forth in conjunction with the first embodiment are applicable here again.

The fourth embodiment also has the same advantages as those of the first embodiment.

[0083]

Next explained is a complex material according to the fifth embodiment of the invention.

As shown in Fig. 9, inverted micelles 7 enveloping precursor superfine particles as shown in Fig. 10 and the other material 2 are first blended, and the complex material is obtained. As shown in Fig. 10, each inverted micelle 7 enveloping a precursor superfine particle contains water in its center, and envelopes in the water a precursor superfine particle 8 containing O in addition to Sr, Al and Eu.

[0084]

Thereafter, the complex material undergoes

treatments for crystallization such as annealing, irradiation of laser light, irradiation of ultrasonic waves, irradiation of microwaves, or the like.

Thereby, the precursor superfine particles 8
5 crystallize. As a result, the crystalline superfine particles 1 composed of $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4:\text{Eu}$ are obtained, and the complex material composed of these crystalline superfine particles 1 and the other material 2 is obtained.

10 In the other respects, the features set forth in conjunction with the first embodiment are applicable here again.

The fifth embodiment also has the same advantages as those of the first embodiment.

15 [0085]

Next explained is a complex material according to the sixth embodiment of the invention.

As shown in Fig. 11, the complex material according to this embodiment is manufactured by
20 blending and mingling inverted micelles 9 enveloping crystalline superfine particles as shown in Fig. 12 and the other material 2. As shown in Fig. 12, each inverted micelle 9 enveloping a crystalline superfine particle contains water in its center, and envelopes in
25 the water the crystalline superfine particle 1 that emits light under a stress.

[0086]

Thereafter, the complex material undergoes a treatment such as annealing, irradiation of laser light, irradiation of ultrasonic waves, irradiation of microwaves, or the like. Thereby, water contained in the inverted micelles 9 is removed. As a result, the complex material composed of crystalline superfine particles 1 made of $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4\text{:Eu}$ and the other material 2 is obtained.

In the other respects, the features set forth in conjunction with the first embodiment are applicable here again.

The sixth embodiment also has the same advantages as those of the first embodiment.

[0087]

Next explained is a complex material according to the seventh embodiment of the invention.

As shown in Fig. 13, the complex material according to this embodiment is first manufactured by blending precursor superfine particles 8 shown in Fig. 14 and the other material 2. The precursor superfine particles 8 contain O in addition to Sr, Al and Eu.

[0088]

After that, the complex material undergoes treatments for crystallization, such as annealing, irradiation of laser beams, irradiation of ultrasonic waves, irradiation of microwaves, or the like. Thereby, the precursor superfine particles 8

crystallize. As a result, crystalline superfine particles 1 composed of $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4\text{:Eu}$ are obtained, and the complex material composed of the crystalline superfine particles 1 and the other material 2 is obtained.

In the other respects, the features set forth in conjunction with the first embodiment are applicable here again.

The seventh embodiment also has the same advantages as those of the first embodiment.

[0089]

Next explained is a complex material according to the eighth embodiment of the invention.

As shown in Fig. 15, the complex material is first manufactured by blending covered precursor superfine particles 10 coated by organic molecules as shown in Fig. 16 with the other material 2. In each covered precursor superfine particle 10, organic molecules 3 cover the surface of the precursor superfine particle 8 containing O in addition to Sr, Al and Eu.

[0090]

Thereafter, the complex material undergoes a treatment for crystallization, such as annealing, irradiation of laser light, irradiation of ultrasonic waves, irradiation of microwaves, or the like. Thereby, the precursor superfine particles 8

crystallize. As a result, crystalline superfine particles 1 composed of $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4:\text{Eu}$ and covered by organic molecules 3 are obtained, and the complex material composed of these crystalline superfine particles 1 and the other material 2 is obtained.

In the other respects, the features set forth in conjunction with the first embodiment are applicable here again.

The eighth embodiment also has the same advantages as those of the first embodiment.

[0091]

Next explained is a complex material according to the ninth embodiment of the invention.

In this complex material, a surfactant 5 shown in Fig. 17 is employed as the organic molecules 3 of the covered precursor superfine particles coated by organic molecules, which was shown in the eighth embodiment. In the other respects, the features set forth in conjunction with the first and eighth embodiments are applicable here again.

The ninth embodiment also has the same advantages as those of the first embodiment.

[0092]

Next explained is a complex material according to the tenth embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 18 is a cross-sectional view of the complex material. In the complex material shown in

Fig. 18, crystalline superfine particles 1 having a grain size of 5 to 100 nm and capable of emitting light under a stress coagulate and form aggregates C. Size of the aggregates C is equal to or smaller than 100 nm.

5 Although the crystalline superfine particles 1 in this complex material form aggregates C, since their size does not exceed 100 nm, transparency of the complex material is ensured.

10 The tenth embodiment also has the same advantages as those of the first embodiment.

[0093]

Next explained is a complex material according to the eleventh embodiment of the invention.

15 In this complex material, crystalline superfine particles 4 covered by organic molecules are used instead of crystalline superfine particles 1 used in the tenth embodiment. The crystalline superfine particles 4 covered by organic molecules coagulate together and form aggregates C.

20 In the other respects, the features set forth in conjunction with the first, second and tenth embodiments are applicable here again.

The eleventh embodiment also has the same advantages as those of the first embodiment.

25 [0094]

Next explained is a complex material according to the twelfth embodiment of the invention.

In this complex material, a surfactant 5 is employed as the organic molecules 3 shown in the eleventh embodiment. Thus, the crystalline superfine particles 4 covered the organic molecules, i.e. the surfactant 5, coagulate, and form aggregates C.

In the other respects, the features set forth in conjunction with the first, third and tenth embodiments are applicable here again.

The twelfth embodiment also has the same advantages as those of the first embodiment.

[0095]

Next explained is a complex material according to the thirteenth embodiment of the invention.

In this embodiment, the complex material is first manufactured by blending inverted micelles 6 as shown in Fig. 8 and the other material 2. In this blending process, the inverted micelles 6 coagulate for some reason, and form aggregates.

[0096]

After that, the complex material undergoes a treatment for crystallization, such as annealing, irradiation of laser light, irradiation of supersonic waves, irradiation of microwaves, or the like. As a result, the complex material composed of crystalline superfine particles 1 made of $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4:\text{Eu}$ and the other material 2 is obtained. In this complex material,

crystalline superfine particles 1 coagulate, and form aggregates C.

In the other respects, the features set forth in conjunction with the first, fourth and tenth
5 embodiments are applicable here again.

The thirteenth embodiment also has the same advantages as those of the first embodiment.

[0097]

Next explained is a complex material
10 according to the fourteenth embodiment of the invention.

In this embodiment, the complex material is first manufactured by blending inverted micelles 7 enveloping precursor superfine particles shown in Fig.
15 10 and the other material 2. In the blending process, the inverted micelles 7 enveloping the precursor superfine particles coagulate for some reason and form aggregates.

[0098]

After that, the complex material undergoes a
20 treatment for crystallization, such as annealing, irradiation of laser light, irradiation of supersonic waves, irradiation of microwaves, or the like. Thereby, the precursor superfine particles 8
25 crystallize. As a result, the complex material composed of crystalline superfine particles 1 made of $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4\text{:Eu}$ and the other material 2 is obtained. In

this complex material, crystalline superfine particles 1 coagulate, and form aggregates C.

In the other respects, the features set forth in conjunction with the first, fifth and tenth
5 embodiments are applicable here again.

The fourteenth embodiment also has the same advantages as those of the first embodiment.

[0099]

Next explained is a complex material
10 according to the fifteenth embodiment of the invention.

In this embodiment, the complex material is manufactured by blending inverted micelles 9 enveloping crystalline superfine particles as shown in Fig. 12 with the second material. In the blending process, the
15 inverted micelles 9 enveloping the crystalline superfine particles coagulate for some reason and form aggregates.

[0100]

Thereafter, the complex material undergoes a
20 treatment such as annealing, irradiation of laser light, irradiation of ultrasonic waves, irradiation of microwaves, or the like. Thereby, water contained in the inverted micelles 9 is removed. As a result, the complex material composed of crystalline superfine
25 particles 1 made of $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4\text{:Eu}$ and the other material 2 is obtained. In this complex material, the crystalline superfine particles 1 coagulate, and form aggregates C.

In the other respects, the features set forth in conjunction with the first, sixth and tenth embodiments are applicable here again.

The fifteenth embodiment also has the same advantages as those of the first embodiment.

[0101]

Next explained is a complex material according to the sixteenth embodiment of the invention.

In this embodiment, the complex material is first manufactured by blending precursor superfine particles 8 shown in Fig. 14 with the other material 2. In this blending process, the precursor superfine particles 8 coagulate for some reason, and form aggregates.

[0102]

Thereafter, the complex material undergoes a treatment for crystallization, such as annealing, irradiation of laser light, irradiation of ultrasonic waves, irradiation of microwaves, or the like.

Thereby, the precursor superfine particles 8 crystallize. As a result, the complex material composed of the crystalline superfine particles 1 made of $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4\text{:Eu}$ and the other material 2 is obtained. In this complex material, crystalline superfine particles 1 coagulate, and form aggregates C.

In the other respects, the features set forth in conjunction with the first, seventh and tenth

embodiments are applicable here again.

The sixteenth embodiment also has the same advantages as those of the first embodiment.

[0103]

5 Next explained is a complex material according to the seventeenth embodiment of the invention.

10 In this embodiment, the complex material is first manufactured by blending precursor superfine particles 10 covered by organic molecules as shown in Fig. 16 with the other material 2. In the blending process, the precursor superfine particles 10 covered by organic molecules coagulate for some reason, and form aggregates.

15 [0104]

 After that, the complex material undergoes a treatment for crystallization, such as annealing, irradiation of laser light, irradiation of supersonic waves, irradiation of microwaves, or the like.

20 Thereby, the precursor superfine particles 8 crystallize. As a result, the complex material, which is composed of crystalline superfine particles 1 made of $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4:\text{Eu}$ and covered by organic molecules 3, and the other material 2 is obtained. In this complex

25 material, the crystalline superfine particles 1 coagulate, and form aggregates C.

 In the other respects, the features set forth

in conjunction with the first, eighth and tenth embodiments are applicable here again.

The seventeenth embodiment also has the same advantages as those of the first embodiment.

5 [0105]

Next explained is a complex material according to the eighteenth embodiment of the invention.

10 In this complex material, a surfactant 5 is employed as the organic molecules 3 covering the precursor superfine particles 10 shown in the seventeenth embodiment.

15 In the other respects, the features set forth in conjunction with the first, eighth, tenth and seventeenth embodiments are applicable here again.

The eighteenth embodiment also has the same advantages as those of the first embodiment.

[0106]

20 Next explained is an artificial light-emitting hair structure according to the nineteenth embodiment of the invention.

25 First, polyester resin and powder of crystalline superfine particles 1 manufactured in the same manner as the first embodiment are blended and mingled by the ratio of 1:2 in weight, and the resulting complex material is poured into a tube of an organic material such as nylon or polyetherimide while

soaking it up with a syringe. After that, the tube containing the complex material is left for a whole day until it cures. This was employed as one of hair samples. These steps were repeated, and a required number of artificial light-emitting hairs were produced. The tubes used for the purpose may be nylon tubes having the outer diameter of 0.9 mm and the inner diameter of 0.5 mm or polyetherimide tubes having the outer diameter of 0.5 mm and the inner diameter of 0.3 mm. In this case, thickness of the complex material of each artificial light-emitting hair, which is composed of crystalline superfine particles made of $\text{SrAl}_2\text{O}_4:\text{Eu}$ and the polyester resin, is equal to the inner diameter of the tube. That is, it is 0.5 mm or 0.3 mm, for example. The tube forming the investment of each artificial light-emitting hair functions to enhance the elasticity of the artificial light-emitting hair and protect the surface of the artificial light-emitting hair.

[0107]

Figs. 19A and 19B show an artificial light-emitting hair structure comprising the artificial light-emitting hairs manufactured in the above-explained manner. Fig. 19A is its side elevation, and Fig. 19B is a plan view.

As shown in Figs. 19A and 19B, the artificial light-emitting hair structure includes artificial

light-emitting hairs 12 fixed to stand from one of major surfaces of a substratum 11 at positions forming a square grid pattern. In this case, the substratum 11 has holes 13 in a square grid pattern, and roots of the artificial light-emitting hairs 12 are inserted in the holes 13 such that the artificial light-emitting hairs 12 stand on the substratum 11. For the fixture, an adhesive may be used, if necessary. The artificial light-emitting hairs 12 used here are manufactured as explained above. For obtaining a sufficiently flexible artificial light-emitting hair 12, diameter d of each artificial light-emitting hair 12 is preferably 2 mm or less in maximum, or more preferably 1 mm or less. For example, it is adjusted in the range from 0.3 to 0.5 mm.

[0108]

Material and thickness of the substratum 11 are determined adequately so that repetitive bending motion of the artificial light-emitting hairs 12 does not deteriorate the strength of fixture of the artificial light-emitting hairs 12 to the substratum 11, and taking account of the environments where the artificial light-emitting hair structure will be used. Especially, in case of an artificial light-emitting hair structure that will be affixed on a non-planar surface, the substratum 11 is preferably flexible enough to bend easily with a manual force of a person.

For example, a resin film such as a polyester resin film is used. Thickness of the substratum 11 is 2 to 3 mm, for example.

[0109]

5 The number of artificial light-emitting hairs 12 and their intervals are determined depending upon the intended use. In the example of Fig. 7, eleven hairs in each column and eleven hairs in each row, i.e. 121 hairs in total, are fixed. The interval a (see
10 Fig. 19B) is determined such that the surface density of the artificial light-emitting hairs 12 is one piece per cm^2 or more. Typically, the interval may be 2 to 10 mm, for example. In this case, the surface density of the artificial light-emitting hairs 12 is 1 to 25
15 pieces per cm^2 .

[0110]

 Height h (see Fig. 19A) of the artificial light-emitting hair 12 is determined in accordance with sensitivities and tastes of users of the artificial
20 light-emitting hair structure. Although the diameter d must be taken account, if a tactile impression similar to that of natural hair or an animal coat is desired to obtain when manually stroking the artificial light-emitting hair 12, the height h of the artificial light-emitting hair 12 is preferably two or three times the
25 diameter d in minimum. Typically, the height h is 5 to 50 times the diameter d, for example. On the other

hand, if a skin touch impression is desirable when manually stroking the artificial light-emitting hair 12, the height h of the artificial light-emitting hair 12 should be sufficient low. For example, it may be lower than two or three times the diameter d . Extremely, the height h may be like a dot approximately equal to the diameter d .

[0111]

The Inventors put the artificial light-emitting hair structure in the dark, and lightly stroked it with a fingertip. Then, the Inventors could confirm that the artificial light-emitting hair 12 immediately emitted intensive light. After the inventors removed the finger stroke, the emission disappeared in a short time. While stroking the artificial light-emitting hair 12 and looking emission of light, the Inventors felt that it stimulated their affections.

[0112]

According to this embodiment, the sufficiently thin artificial light-emitting hair 12 comprising an inorganic compound emitting light under a stress and a resin is manufactured, and a necessary number of artificial light-emitting hairs 12 are fixed to stand on one major surface of the substratum 11 in a square grid arrangement to make the artificial light-emitting hair structure. Therefore, a user can induce

emission of light by lightly stroking the artificial light-emitting hair with his/her hand, and additionally, he/she loses the emission of light from sight immediately after removal of the stroke.

5 Therefore, the user can enjoy not only a favorable tactile impression by stroking it, but also the emission of light when he/she strokes it. This will be effective for consoling the user or improving the user's feeling.

10 This artificial light-emitting hair structure is suitable for use as artificial light-emitting skin. For example, it may be used to cover the surface of the body of a consolation robot, amusement robot, entertainment robot, or the like.

15 [0113]

Fig. 20 shows an artificial light-emitting fabric according to the twentieth embodiment of the invention. As illustrated, this artificial light-emitting fabric is weaved or knitted by using
20 artificial light-emitting fibers 21 as lengthwise threads and artificial light-emitting fibers 22 as fillings. The respective artificial light-emitting fibers 21, 22 used to weave or knit the fabric inevitably curve successively in a wavy form.

25 [0114]

The artificial light-emitting fibers 21, 22 used here are manufactured in the same manner as the

artificial light-emitting hair 12 already explained.
To make the In order to obtain artificial light-
emitting fibers 21, 22 flexible enough to weave or knit
a fabric, diameter of the artificial light-emitting
5 fibers 21, 22 is preferably 2 mm or less in maximum,
more preferably 1 mm or less, and still more preferably
0.5 mm or less.

[0115]

Interval of the artificial light-emitting
10 fibers 21, 22 is determined such that the artificial
light-emitting fibers 21, 22 interlace preferably once
or more per cm, or more preferably twice or more per
cm. Typically, the interval may be 2 to 10 mm, for
example. In this case, the interlacing period of the
15 artificial light-emitting fibers 21, 22 is 1 to 5 times
per cm.

Needless to say, as the artificial light-
emitting fibers 21, 22 become thinner, and the
interlacing period of the artificial light-emitting
20 fibers 21, 22 become frequent, the artificial light-
emitting fabric becomes denser. Thus, it will be
possible to obtain a dense fabric equivalent to a true
silk fabric.

[0116]

25 According to this embodiment, thin artificial
light-emitting fibers 21, 22 are made from the
composite material composed of an inorganic compound

capable emitting light under a stress and a resin, and the artificial light-emitting fibers 21, 22 are used as lengthwise threads and fillings to weave or knit an artificial light-emitting fabric. Therefore, a user can induce emission of light from the fabric by lightly stroking the artificial light-emitting fibers 21, 22 with his/her hand, and furthermore, he/she loses emission of light from sight immediately after removal of the stroke. Therefore, although the fabric is not covered by hair, the user can get a favorable tactile impression when stroking it, and at the same time, and can enjoy emission of light. This will be effective for consoling the user or improving the user's feeling.

The artificial light-emitting fabric is suitable for use as artificial light-emitting skin. For example, it can be used to cover the surface of the body of a consolation robot, amusement robot, entertainment robot, or the like. It can be used to make clothes as well.

[0117]

Fig. 21 shows an artificial light-emitting fabric according to the twenty-first embodiment of the invention. Similarly to the artificial light-emitting fabric according to the twentieth embodiment, the artificial light-emitting fabric shown in Fig. 21 is also weaved or knitted by using artificial light-emitting fibers 21 as the lengthwise threads and

artificial light-emitting fibers 22 as fittings.

However, the artificial light-emitting fabric shown here is weaved or knitted in a different pattern. In the other respects, the features of the twentieth embodiment are applicable here again.

The twenty-first embodiment also has the same advantages as those of the twentieth embodiment.

[0118]

Fig. 22 shows an artificial light-emitting fabric according to the twenty-second embodiment of the invention. Similarly to the artificial light-emitting fabric according to the twentieth and twenty-first embodiments, the artificial light-emitting fabric shown in Fig. 22 is also weaved or knitted by using artificial light-emitting fibers 21 as the lengthwise threads and artificial light-emitting fibers 22 as fittings. However, the artificial light-emitting fabric shown here is weaved or knitted in a different pattern. In the other respects, the features of the twentieth embodiment are applicable here again.

The twenty-second embodiment also has the same advantages as those of the twentieth embodiment.

[0119]

Fig. 23 shows an artificial light-emitting fabric according to the twenty-third embodiment of the invention. Similarly to the artificial light-emitting fabric according to the twentieth, twenty-first and

twenty-second embodiments, the artificial light-emitting fabric shown in Fig. 22 is also weaved or knitted by using artificial light-emitting fibers 21 as the lengthwise threads and artificial light-emitting fibers 22 as fittings. However, unlike the preceding embodiments, here is used a substratum having periodical through holes 23 in an arrangement corresponding to the weaving or knitting period of the artificial light-emitting fabric, and the artificial light-emitting fabric is weaved or knitted while passing the artificial light-emitting fibers 21, 22 through the through holes 23. In the other respects, the features of the twentieth embodiment are applicable here again. Also in this mode of weaving or knitting, the artificial light-emitting fibers 21, 22 used to weave or knit the fabric inevitably curve successively in a wavy form.

[0120]

The twenty-third embodiment also has the same advantages as those of the twentieth embodiment. Further, since this embodiment can make a weaving or knitting pattern of the artificial light-emitting fibers 21, 22 having a more accurate period, it has the additional advantage that the artistic aspect of the artificial light-emitting fabric can be improved.

[0121]

Having described specific preferred

embodiments of the present invention with reference to the accompanying drawings, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to those precise embodiments, and that various changes and modifications may be effected therein by one skilled in the art without departing from the scope or the spirit of the invention as defined in the appended claims.

For example, numerical values, structures, shapes, materials, source materials, processes, and others are not but examples. Other acceptable numerical values, structures, shapes, materials, source materials and processes may be employed alternatively.

[0122]

[Effects of the Invention]

As described above, according to the present invention, since the grain size of crystalline superfine particles capable of emitting light depending upon the time-rate-of-change of a stress is controlled in the range from 5nm to 100 nm, it is possible to prepare a transparent light-emitting material excellent in dispersibility when complexed with the other material and enhanced in emission efficiency,

[0123]

Furthermore, by using the inverted micelle method, it is possible to manufacture crystalline superfine particles, inverted micelles, inverted micelles enveloping precursor superfine particles,

inverted micelles enveloping crystalline superfine particles, and precursor superfine particles in an easy manner, and it is possible to manufacture a complex material containing crystalline superfine particles dispersed therein in an easy manner.

[0124]

Moreover, the invention can realize a transparent stress emission material by using a transparent substance as the material to be complexed.

If an elastic material is used as the material to be complexed, it is possible to realize a complex material with which a person can induce emission of light by applying his/her force, such as a hand or finger touch, and can permit it to emit light only when stressed by a touch, for example. In addition, from this complex material, it is possible to manufacture artificial light-emitting hair and artificial light-emitting fibers, and from these products, it is possible to realize artificial light-emitting hair structures, artificial light-emitting skin, artificial light-emitting bodies, artificial light-emitting fabrics, and so forth. These novel products will bring about a revolution in the field of robots for entertainment or amusement purposes and the field of optics, for example.

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Fig. 1]

A cross-sectional view of a complex material according to the first embodiment of the invention.

[Fig. 2]

A schematic diagram of a crystalline
5 superfine particle used in the first embodiment of the invention.

[Fig. 3]

A diagram showing an X-ray diffraction
10 pattern of crystalline superfine particles used in the first embodiment of the invention.

[Fig. 4]

A schematic diagram showing emission spectrum
by ultraviolet excitation of crystalline superfine
15 particles used in the first embodiment of the invention.

[Fig. 5]

A schematic diagram showing a crystalline
superfine particle covered by organic molecules, which
is used in the second embodiment of the invention.

[Fig. 6]

A schematic diagram showing a crystalline
superfine particle covered by organic molecules, which
is used in the third embodiment of the invention.

[Fig. 7]

A cross-sectional view of a complex material
25 first manufactured in the fourth embodiment of the invention.

[Fig. 8]

A schematic diagram showing an inverted micelle used in the fourth embodiment of the invention.

[Fig. 9]

5 A cross-sectional view of a complex material first manufactured in the fifth embodiment of the invention.

[Fig. 10]

10 A schematic diagram showing an inverted micelle enveloping a precursor superfine particle, which is used in the fifth embodiment of the invention.

[Fig. 11]

15 A cross-sectional view of a complex material first manufactured in the sixth embodiment of the invention;

[Fig. 12]

A schematic diagram showing an inverted micelle enveloping a crystalline superfine particle, which is used in the sixth embodiment of the invention;

20 [Fig. 13]

A cross-sectional view of a complex material first manufactured in the seventh embodiment of the invention;

[Fig. 14]

25 A schematic diagram showing a precursor superfine particle used in the seventh embodiment of the invention;

[Fig. 15]

A cross-sectional view of a complex material first manufactured in the eighth embodiment of the invention;

5 [Fig. 16]

A schematic diagram showing a precursor superfine particle covered by organic molecules, which is used in the eighth embodiment of the invention;

[Fig. 17]

10 A schematic diagram showing a precursor superfine particle covered by organic molecules, which is used in the ninth embodiment of the invention;

[Fig. 18]

15 A cross-sectional view of a complex material according to the tenth embodiment of the invention;

[Fig. 19]

A side elevation and a plan view of an artificial light-emitting hair structure according to the 19th embodiment of the invention;

20 [Fig. 20]

A schematic diagram showing an artificial light-emitting fabric according to the 20th embodiment of the invention;

[Fig. 21]

25 A schematic diagram showing an artificial light-emitting fabric according the 21st embodiment of the invention;

[Fig. 22]

A schematic diagram showing an artificial light-emitting fabric according the 22nd embodiment of the invention;

5 [Fig. 23]

A cross-sectional view of an artificial light-emitting fabric according the 23rd embodiment of the invention;

[Description of Reference Numerals]

10 1 ... Crystalline superfine particle, 2 ... Another material, 3 ... Organic molecules, 4 ... Crystalline superfine particle covered by organic molecules, 5 ... Surfactant, 6 ... Inverted micelle, 7 ... Inverted micelle enveloping a precursor superfine particle, 15 8 ... Precursor superfine particle, 9 ... Inverted micelle enveloping a crystalline superfine particle, 10 ... precursor superfine particle covered by organic molecules, C ... Aggregate, 11 ... Substratum, 12... Artificial light-emitting hair, 21,22 ... artificial 20 light-emitting fibers

[Title of Document] Abstract

[Abstract]

[Subject]

To provide crystalline superfine particles that are
5 excellent in dispersibility when complexed with other
materials, enhanced in emission efficiency, and
suitable for preparing transparent stress emission
materials, and a manufacturing method thereof.

[Solving Means]

10 Crystalline superfine particles capable of
emitting light depending upon a time-rate-of-change of
a stress and controlled in grain size in the range from
5 nm to 100 nm are complexed with another material such
as resin. The crystalline superfine particles are
15 manufactured by using aggregates of molecules, i.e.
inverted micelles, which orient hydrophilic groups of
surfactant molecules inward and hydrophobic groups
outward in a nonpolar solvent and which contain metal
ions of a metal for forming the crystalline superfine
20 particles dissolved in water inside the inverted
micelles. Alternatively, they are manufactured by
using inverted micelles enveloping precursor superfine
particles, in which precursor superfine particles are
enveloped in water inside the inverted micelles. The
25 complex material obtained is used to manufacture
artificial light-emitting hair structures, artificial
light-emitting skin, artificial light-emitting bodies,

artificial light-emitting fabrics, and others.

[Selected Drawing] Fig. 8

Translation of Drawings

[FIG. 1]

1 ... Crystalline superfine particle

2 ... Another material

5

[FIG. 3]

(1)... Intensity

[FIG. 4]

10 (1)... Intensity

(2)... Wavelengths

[FIG. 5]

1 ... Crystalline superfine particle

15 3 ... Organic molecules

[FIG. 6]

1 ... Crystalline superfine particle

5 ... Surfactant

20 (1) ... Hydrophobic group

(2) ... Hydrophilic group

[FIG. 7]

2 ... Another material

25 6 ... Inverted micelle

[FIG. 8]

5 ... Surfactant

(1) ... Hydrophobic group

(2) ... Hydrophilic group

(3) ... Nonpolar solvent

5 (4) ... Water containing metal ions

[FIG. 9]

2 ... Another material

7 ... Inverted micelle enveloping a precursor superfine
10 particle

[FIG. 10]

8 ... Precursor superfine particle

(1) ... Water

15

[FIG. 11]

2 ... Another material

9 ... Inverted micelle enveloping a crystalline
superfine particle

20

[FIG. 12]

1 ... Crystalline superfine particle

(1) ... Water

25

[FIG. 13]

2 ... Another material

8 ... Precursor superfine particle

[FIG. 15]

2 ... Another material

10 ... precursor superfine particle covered by organic
molecules

5

[FIG. 16]

3 ... Organic molecules

8 ... Precursor superfine particle

10

[FIG. 17]

5 ... Surfactant

8 ... Precursor superfine particle

(1) ... Hydrophobic group

(2) ... Hydrophilic group

15

[FIG. 18]

2 ... Another material

C ... Aggregate

20

[FIG. 19]

11 ... Substratum

12... Artificial light-emitting hair

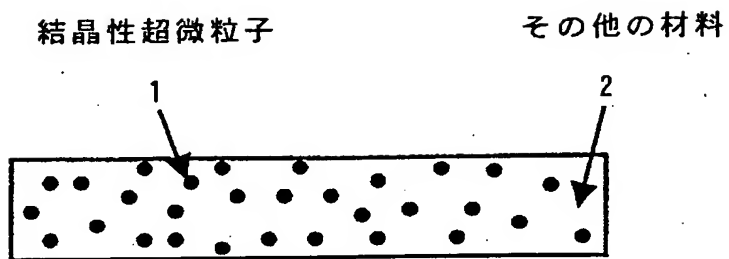
[FIG. 20]

25

21,22 ... artificial light-emitting fibers

【書類名】 図面

【図1】

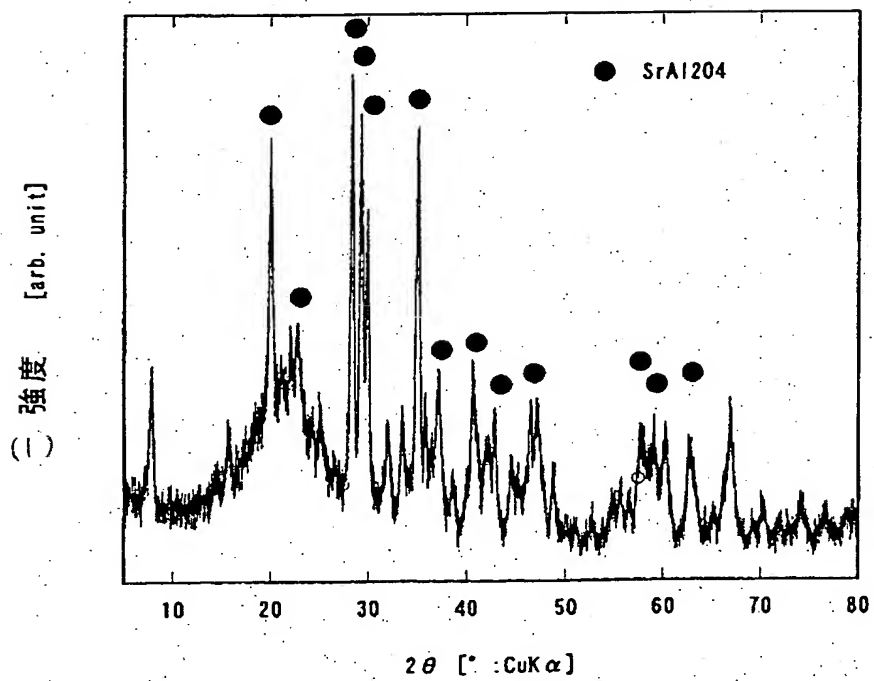


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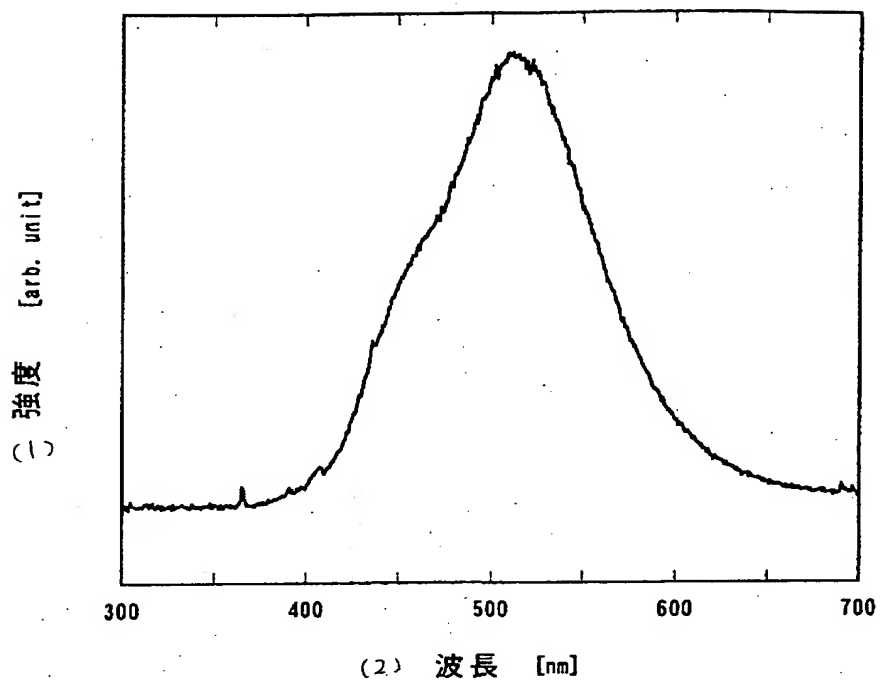
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【図3】

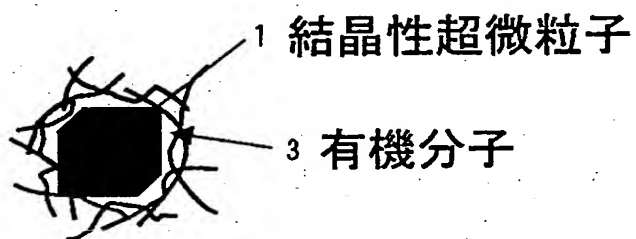


【图 4】



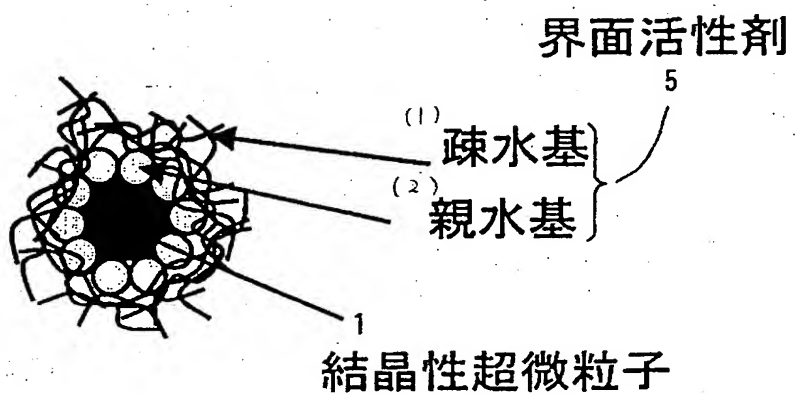
【图 5】

4

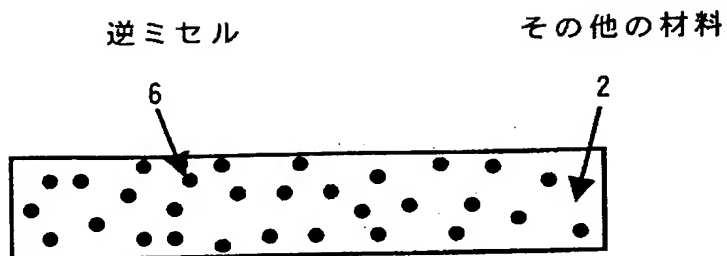


【图 6】

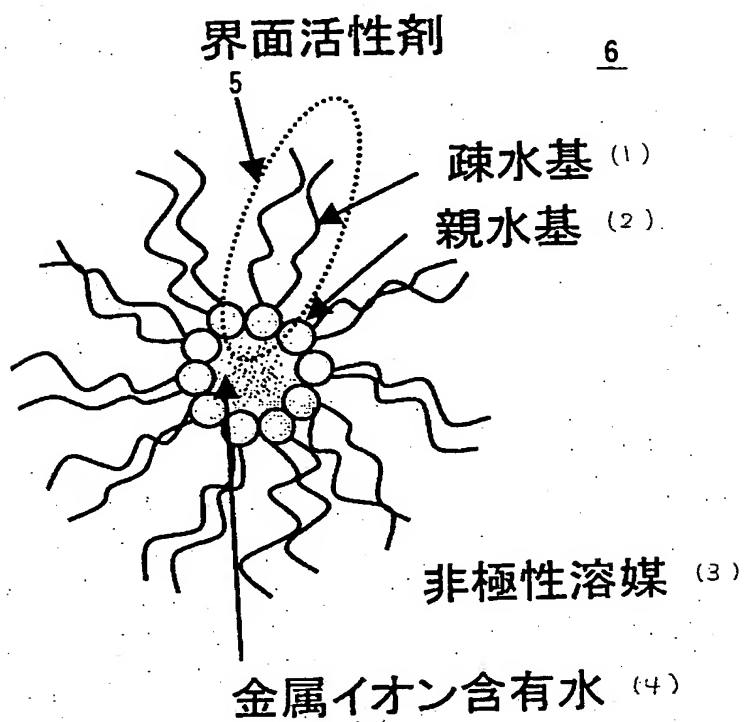
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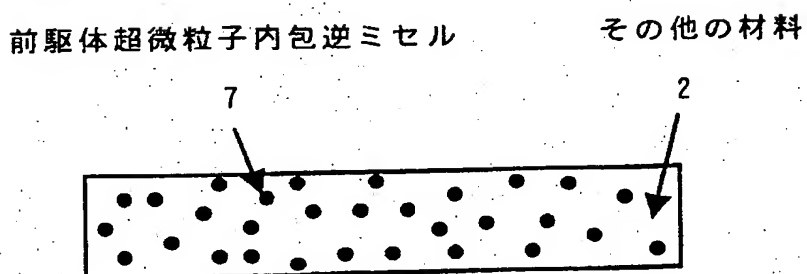
【図 7】



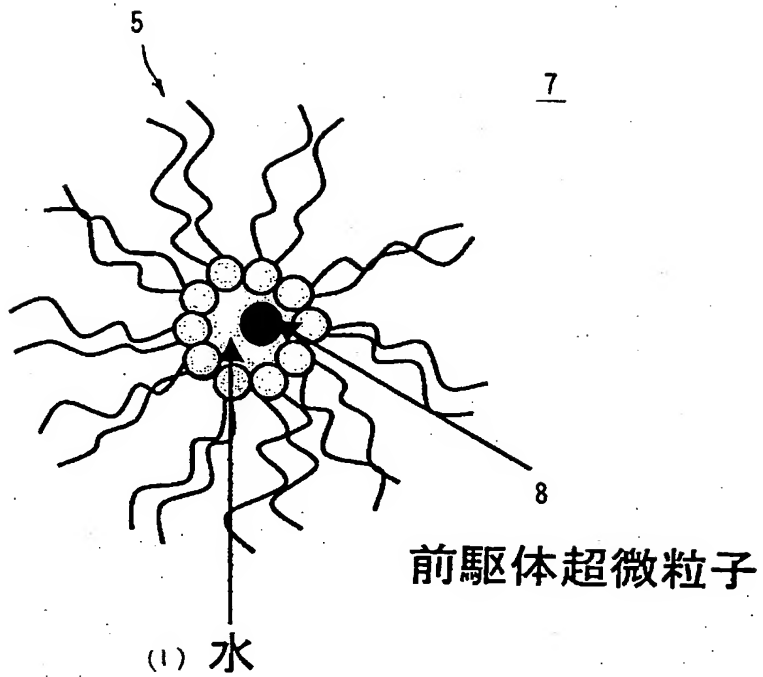
【図 8】



【図 9】



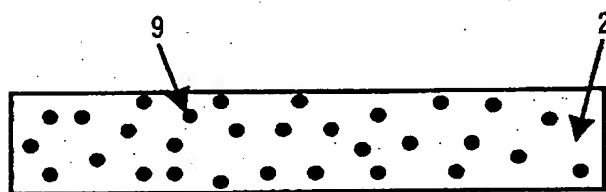
【図 1 0】



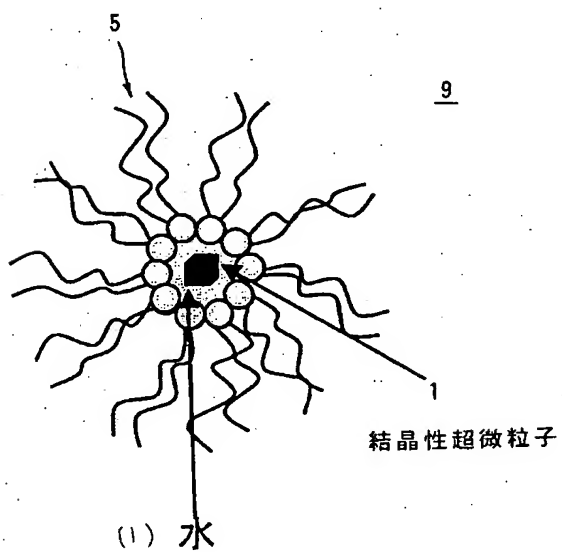
【図 1 1】

結晶性超微粒子内包逆ミセル

その他の材料



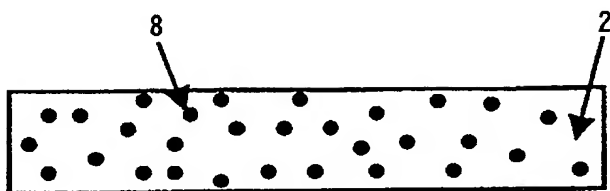
【図 1 2】



【図 1 3】

前駆体超微粒子

その他の材料



【図 1 4】

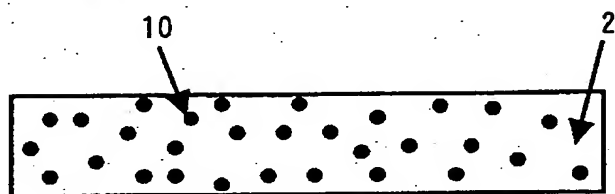
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【図 1 5】

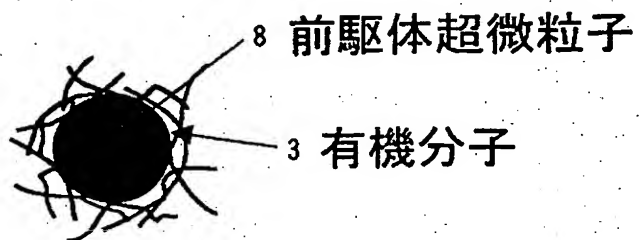
有機分子被覆前駆体超微粒子

その他の材料



【図 1 6】

10

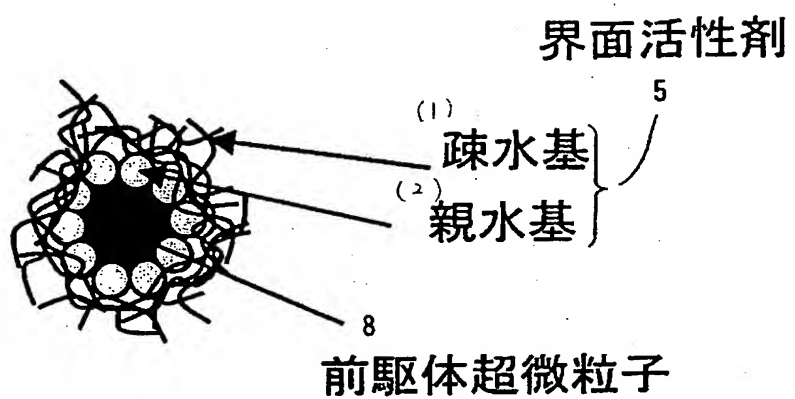


8 前駆体超微粒子

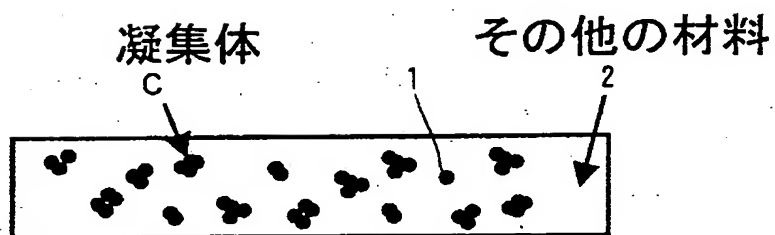
3 有機分子

【図17】

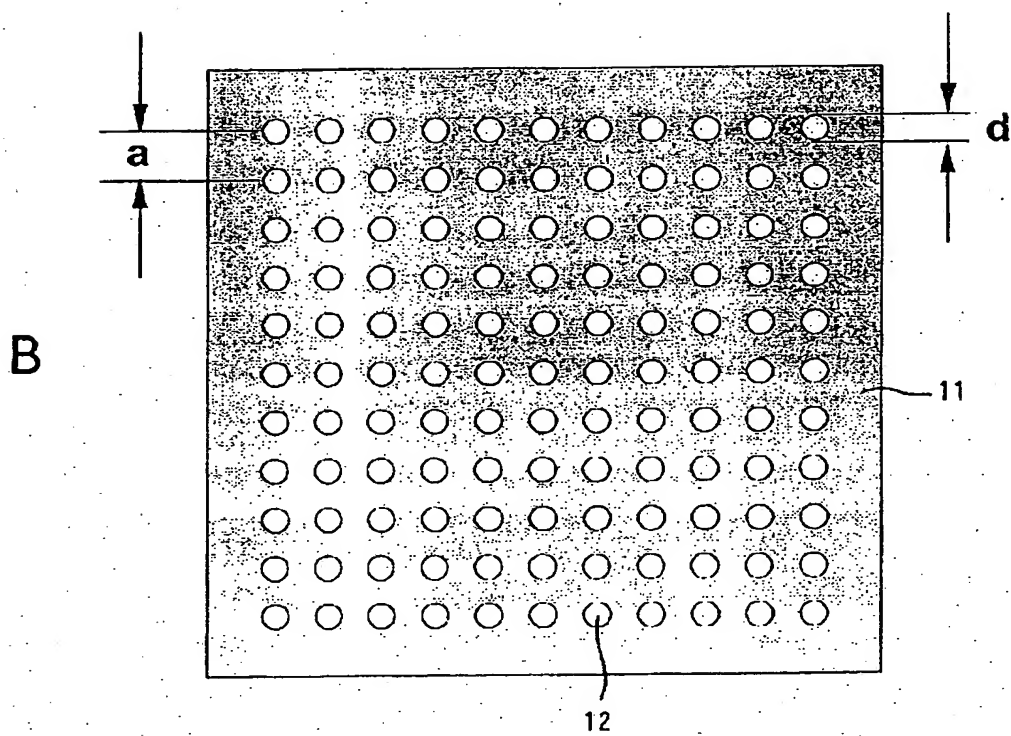
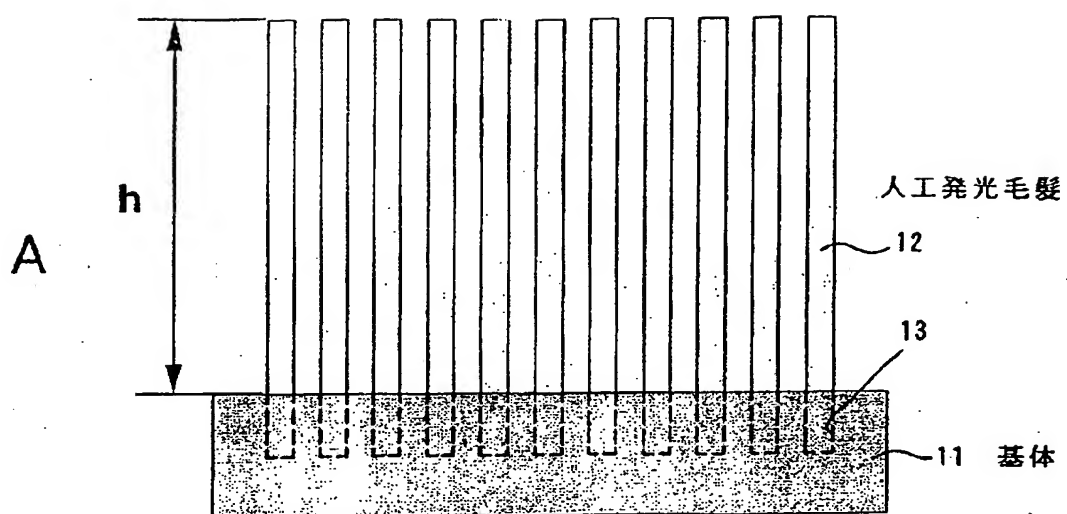
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【図18】

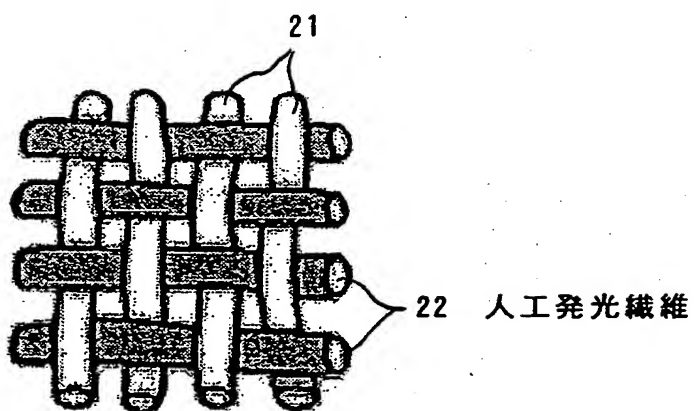


【图19】

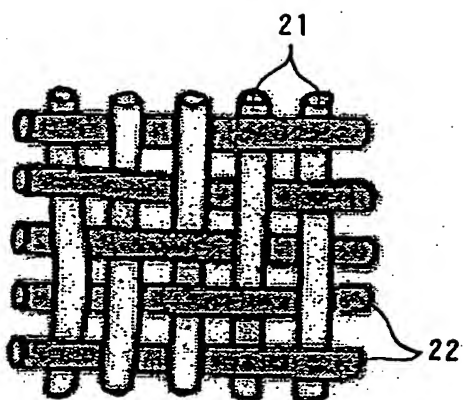


【図 20】

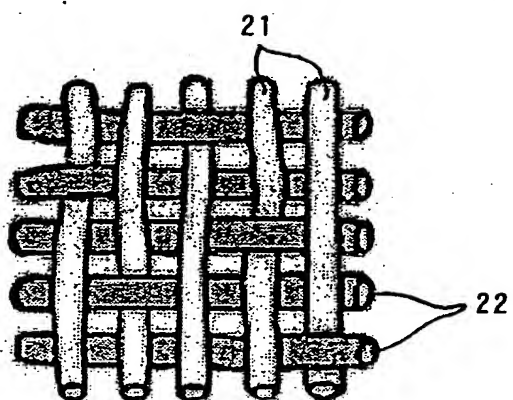
人工発光繊維



【図 21】



【図 22】



【図 2 3】

